

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1999, No. 50

**National Honours (Most Illustrious Order of Merit)
Regulations made by the Governor-General under section
14 of the National Honours Act No. 23 of 1998.**

WHEREAS Her Majesty The Queen in Parliament did by The National Honours Act 1998 establish and Constitute a Society of Honour to be called by the name of The Most Illustrious Order of Merit which said Act further provides and declares that the said Order should be governed by the Schedule to the Act and Regulations made thereunder; and

Recites the National Honours Act 1998.

WHEREAS the Grand Master of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit considering it expedient by virtue of the said Act do hereby make the following Regulations.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the National Honours (Most Illustrious Order of Merit) Regulations 1999.

Short title

2. The Society of Honour established under the National Honours Act shall be Styled and Distinguished in all Acts, proceedings and pleadings as "The Most Illustrious Order of Merit", in these Regulations referred to as "The Most Illustrious Order".

Style and Designation.

3. The Most Illustrious Order shall consist of the Grand Master and five grades of Members, namely,

Order to consist of Grand Master and five grades of Members.

- (a) Grand Cross
- (b) Grand Officer
- (c) Commander
- (d) Officer
- (e) Member

Governor-General to be Grand Master.

4. The Governor-General shall be the Grand Master of The Most Illustrious Order, and shall exercise the power of annulling, interpreting, explaining and augmenting these Regulations.

Duty of the Grand Master.

5. It is Duty of the Grand Master to enforce due observance of The Most Illustrious Order Regulations.

Designation of the five grades of members.

6. The five grades of members of the said Most Illustrious Order shall be styled and designated as follows —

- (a) Grand Cross
- (b) Grand Officer
- (c) Commander
- (d) Officer
- (e) Member

Limit of number of establishment of members.

7. (1) The Establishment of members of The Most Illustrious Order shall be limited in any one year and shall be limited in number as follows —

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| (a) Grand Cross | One (1) |
| (b) Grand Officer | Two (2) |
| (c) Commander | Three (3) |
| (d) Officer | Five (5) |
| (e) Member | Seven (7) |

(2) Non-Establishment Members may be appointed at the discretion of the Grand Master and such will not affect the appointment of the number of Members.

8. The Persons to be admitted to The Most Illustrious Order shall be persons who have rendered distinguished service to Antigua and Barbuda. Qualifications.

9. The Order of precedence for members of the Most Illustrious Order shall, in all solemn ceremonies and in all other places and assemblies whatsoever be as follows — Precedence of Members.

- (a) Members who have received the Grand Cross of The Most Illustrious Order shall have place and precedence immediately before members who have received the Grand Cross of The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage;
- (b) Members who are Grand Officers of the Most Illustrious Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately before Grand Officers of The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage;
- (c) Members who are appointed as Commanders of The Most Illustrious Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately before Commanders of The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage;
- (d) An Officer of The Most Illustrious Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately before an Officer of The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage;
- (e) Persons who are Members of The Most Illustrious Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately before Officers of The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage.

10. The Badge of the Grand Master of The Most Illustrious Order shall be a representation in metal of the Royal Crown which Badge shall be suspended by the Riband of the Order around the neck. Insignia of Grand Master.

Badge and Insignia
of Members of the
five grades and Post
Nominal
Abbreviations.

11. (a) The Insignia of a member who is a Grand Cross of this Most Illustrious Order shall comprise:

1st Grade: Grand Cross. In Silver-Gilt and Vitreous Enamels

Breast Star; Sash Badge; Miniature for Evening Wear, Full Dress Sash (102mm wide, with a central band of sky blue running centrally. The centre stripe of sky blue is bisected with a stripe of scarlet, also running centrally).

BREAST STAR: An eight pointed, brilliant cut, silver plaque (75mm diameter) upon which is set a cross in white enamel (65mm diameter), at the centre of which is a black enamel disk superimposed with a gold pineapple (the symbol of hospitality, charity and merit) with emerald green stalk within a royal blue enamel circlet bearing the words in gold "Order of Merit" and "Antigua and Barbuda". Between the arms of the cross are identical motifs comprising a gold dolphin swimming from right to left (clockwise) linking three royal palm trees (representing Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda respectively).

SASH BADGE: A cross in white enamel (65mm diameter), at the centre of which is a black enamel disk superimposed with a gold pineapple (the symbol of hospitality, charity and merit) with emerald green stalk within a royal blue enamel circlet bearing the words in gold "Order of Merit" and "Antigua and Barbuda." Between the arms of the cross are identical motifs comprising a gold dolphin swimming from right to left (clockwise) linking three royal palm trees (representing Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda respectively). The cross suspension comprises the St. Edward's crown symbolising Antigua and Barbuda's status as a crowned democracy.

- (b) The post nominal abbreviation of the first grade of The Most Illustrious Order shall be GCM;
- (c) The Badge and Insignia of a Grand Officer of The Most Illustrious Order shall comprise

2nd Grade: Grand Officer. In Silver-Gilt and Vitreous Enamels

Comprises: Breast Star; Neck Badge; Miniature for Evening Wear (Neck Badge riband 44mm wide, yellow, with a band of sky blue running centrally. The centre stripe of sky blue is bisected with a stripe of scarlet also running centrally).

BREAST STAR: An eight pointed, brilliant cut, silver plaque (75mm diameter) upon which is set a cross in white enamel (65mm diameter), at the centre of which is a black enamel disk superimposed with a gold pineapple (the symbol of hospitality, charity and merit) with emerald green stalk within a royal blue enamel cirlet bearing the words in gold "Order of Merit" and "Antigua and Barbuda". Between the arms of the cross are identical motifs comprising a gold dolphin swimming from right to left (clockwise) linking three royal palm trees (representing Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda respectively).

NECK BADGE: A cross in white enamel (55mm diameter), at the centre of which is a black enamel disk superimposed with a gold pineapple (the symbol of hospitality, charity and merit) with emerald green stalk within a royal blue enamel cirlet bearing the words in gold "Order of Merit and "Antigua and Barbuda". Between the arms of the cross are identical motifs comprising a gold dolphin swimming from right to left (clockwise) linking three royal palm trees (representing Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda respectively). Attached to a silver-gilt collar loop, the badge suspension comprises the St. Edwards crown, in silver-gilt, symbolising Antigua and Barbuda's status as a crowned democracy.

- (d) The post nominal abbreviation of the second grade of The Most Illustrious Order shall be GOM;
- (e) The Badge and Insignia of a Commander of The Most Illustrious Order shall comprise:

3rd Grade: Commander. *In Silver-Gilt and Vitreous Enamels*

Neck Badge; Miniature for Evening Wear (Neck Badge riband 44mm wide, yellow, with a band of sky blue running centrally. The centre stripe of sky blue is bisected with a stripe of scarlet, also running centrally).

NECK BADGE: A cross in white enamel (55mm diameter), at the centre of which is a black enamel disk superimposed with a gold pineapple (the symbol of hospitality, charity and merit) with emerald green stalk within a royal blue enamel circlet bearing the words in gold "Order of Merit and "Antigua and Barbuda". Between the arms of the cross are identical motifs comprising a gold dolphin swimming from right to left (clockwise) linking three royal palm trees (representing Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda respectively). Attached to a silver collar loop, the badge suspension comprises the St. Edwards crown, in silver, symbolising Antigua and Barbuda's status as a crowned democracy.

- (f) The post nominal abbreviation of the third grade of The Most Illustrious Order shall be CM;
- (g) The Badge and Insignia of an Officer of The Most Illustrious Order shall comprise:

4th Grade: Officer. *In Silver-Gilt and Vitreous Enamels*

Medal and Miniature for Evening Wear (Medal riband 32mm wide, yellow, with a band of sky blue running centrally. The centre stripe of sky blue is bisected with a stripe of scarlet, also running centrally).

MEDAL: A cross in white enamel (36mm diameter), at the centre of which is a black emerald disk superimposed with a gold pineapple (the symbol of

hospitality, charity and merit) with emerald green stalk within a royal blue enamel circlet bearing the words in gold 'Order of Merit' and 'Antigua and Barbuda'. Between the arms of the cross are identical motifs comprising a silver-gilt dolphin swimming from right to left (clockwise) linking three royal palm trees (representing Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda respectively). Attached to a scalloped silver-gilt riband bale, the medal suspension comprises the St. Edward's crown in silver-gilt, symbolising Antigua and Barbuda's status as a crowned democracy.

- (h) The post nominal abbreviation of the fourth grade of The Most Illustrious Order shall be OM(A & B);
- (i) The Badge and Insignia of a Member of The Most Illustrious Order shall comprise:

5th Grade: Member. *In Silver-Gilt and Vitreous Enamels*

Medal and Miniature for Evening Wear (Medal riband 32mm wide, yellow, with a band of sky blue running centrally. The centre stripe of sky blue is bisected with a stripe of scarlet, also running centrally)

MEDAL: A cross in white enamel (36mm diameter), at the centre of which is a black enamel disk superimposed with a gold pineapple (the symbol of hospitality, charity and merit) with emerald green stalk within a royal blue enamel circlet bearing the words in gold 'Order of Merit' and 'Antigua and Barbuda'. Between the arms of the cross are identical motifs comprising a silver dolphin swimming from right to left (clockwise) linking three royal palm trees (representing Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda respectively). Attached to a scalloped silver riband bale, the medal suspension comprises the St. Edward's crown, in silver, symbolising Antigua and Barbuda's status as a crowned democracy.

- (j) The post nominal abbreviation of the fifth grade of this Most Illustrious Order shall be MM;

Supporters to their Arms. 12. It shall be lawful on all occasions and for the greater honour and dignity for Members who have received Grand Crosses of The Most Illustrious Order, to bear and use Supporters to their Arms lawfully borne.

Armorial Ensigns. 13. It shall be lawful for the members of all grades of The Most Illustrious Order to surround their Armorial Ensigns lawfully borne with a circle of Riband of The Most Illustrious Order and to suspend therefrom a Representation of their Badges as described in these Regulations.

Sealed Pattern and Drawing of Insignia. 14. The Sealed Patterns of the Badges and Riband of the members of all five grades of The Most Illustrious Order shall be deposited and kept in the Chancery of the Orders and Decorations of Antigua and Barbuda.

Cancellation and annulment of Appointment. 15. (1) The Grand Master of The Most Illustrious Order shall, upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister, cancel and annul the appointment of any person to the Order.

Restoration. (2) Any cancellation and annulment of an appointment to the Order shall be sealed with the Seal of the Order, and thereupon the name of such person shall be erased from the register and he/she shall forthwith be requested to return the Badge and Riband of the Order to the Chancery of the Order in the Chancery of the Orders and Decorations of Antigua and Barbuda.

(3) The Grand Master may upon recommendation of the Prime Minister restore to the Order any person whose appointment was cancelled and annulled.

Investiture No 23 of 1998 16. (1) Upon the nomination by the Honours' Committee in accordance with the National Honours Act of any person to be a member of any of the five grades of The Most Illustrious Order, such person so nominated shall be invested with the Insignia hereinbefore described as appropriate to his or her grade within the Order by —

- (a) the Grand Master if the person is in Antigua and Barbuda;
- (b) the Ambassador or the High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda accredited to that country if the person resides in any other country;
- (c) such other person as the Grand Master may be pleased to appoint specially for this purpose in the name of and on behalf of the Grand Master if there is no Ambassador or High Commissioner accredited to that country where such person resides.

(2) On the day of Investiture the person to be invested shall be introduced into the presence of the Grand Master, the Ambassador, the High Commissioner or the person specially appointed by the Grand Master as the case may be, attended by Antigua Herald of Arms or Barbuda Herald of Arms or other Officer deputed to be in attendance, bearing the proper insignia of this Order.

(3) The Grand Master or Ambassador or High Commissioner or the person specially appointed as aforesaid, shall invest the person with the Ensigns of the Order and shall deliver to such person the Insignia appertaining to the grade within The Most Illustrious Order.

17. (1) The Grand Master shall, by a Warrant under his Sign Manual counter-signed by the Chancellor of the Order or if the Office of Grand Master is vacant or the Grand Master is ill or absent or for any other reason unable to do so, by the Chancellor and sealed with the Seal of the said Most Illustrious Order, authorise some distinguished person to perform in the name of and on behalf of the Grand Master the Ceremony of investing members of The Most Illustrious Order with the Insignia of the respective grades, or permit the ceremony of investiture to be dispensed with.

Warrants to
authorise
Distinguished
Persons to perform
the ceremony of
Investiture on
behalf of the Grand
Master and also
Dispense with the
Ceremony

(2) In the event the ceremony of investiture dispensed with, under paragraph (1), the Grand Master may by warrant authorise any persons invested to wear the insignia and enjoy the privileges appertaining to their respective dignities in as full and ample a manner as if they had been invested by the Grand Master.

Provided that, subject to such expectations as the Grand Master may think fit, when a person has been nominated and appointed to one of the five grades of The Most Illustrious Order and the appointment has been approved and published officially by the Grand Master, the person shall thereupon use the customary letters after his name, denoting the appointment to the Order.

Seal. 18. The Seal of the Most Illustrious Order shall comprise a representation of the Badge of the Order, surrounded by the legend: "THE SEAL OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS ORDER OF MERIT"

Officers. 19. (1) The following Officers shall be appointed to the Most Illustrious Order—

- Chancellor
- Secretary General
- Antigua Herald of Arms
- Barbuda Herald of Arms

(2) The Officers specified in subsection (1) shall rank among each other in the above order.

The Chancellor. 20. (1) The Chancellor of The Most Illustrious Order shall be appointed by the Grand Master.

Badge (2) The Chancellor shall wear suspended about the neck from a Riband of the Order a Badge of a square form, representing a purse.

Armorial Bearings. (3) The Chancellor may surround his Armorial Ensigns lawfully borne with a Circle of Riband of the Order and dependent therefrom a Representation of his Badge.

Duties of the Chancellor. 21. (1) The Chancellor shall perform the following duties:—

- (a) keep in his custody the Seal of The Most Illustrious Order which he shall affix or cause to be affixed to all regulations, and other instruments and writings

of The Most Illustrious Order which require to be passed under the said Seal;

- (b) notify all nominations to The Most Illustrious Order, prepare and countersign all instruments to which the seal of the said Most Illustrious Order is affixed, and transmit the commands of the Grand Master respecting the said Most Illustrious Order;
- (c) attend to the service of The Most Illustrious Order; and
- (d) perform such other duties as he may be directed by these Regulations or by the Grand Master.

(2) In the event of a vacancy in the Office of Chancellor or of the absence of the Chancellor from Antigua and Barbuda or his inability through illness or other grave cause to perform the duties and function of his office, the Secretary General of The Most Illustrious Order shall, for the period of the vacancy, absence or inability through illness or other grave cause, exercise and perform all and singular the duties and functions which appertain to the said Office of Chancellor until the pleasure of the Grand Master be known.

(3) The Chancellor shall be responsible for the Chancery of The Most Illustrious Order, wherein the Register of all members of the Order as well as a record of all proceedings of the Orders and Decorations of Antigua and Barbuda shall be deposited and preserved.

22. (1) The Secretary General of The Most Illustrious Order shall be appointed by the Grand Master and shall write all letters connected with the service of The Most Illustrious Order and shall keep register of all members of the Order as well as a record of all proceedings connected therewith.

The Secretary
General

(2) The Secretary General shall wear a representation of crossed quill pens suspended from the Riband of the Order round the neck if the Officer is a man or if a woman from a bow of same.

Badge

- Armorial Bearings.** (3) The Secretary General may surround his Armorial ensigns lawfully borne by a Circle of the Riband of the Order with a representation of the Badge of the Secretary General dependent therefrom.
- Antigua Herald of Arms.** 23. (1) The Antigua Herald of Arms of The Most Illustrious Order shall be appointed by the Grand Master and shall assist in marshalling Investitures of the Order, and in all other ways ordered by the Grand Master as conducive to the good of the Order.
- Badge.** (2) The Antigua Herald of Arms shall wear his Badge comprising a representation in metal of suspended round the neck from a Riband of the Order.
- Armorial Bearings.** (3) The Antigua Herald of Arms may surround his Armorial Ensigns lawfully borne with a Circle of the Riband of the said Order with the Badge dependent therefrom.
- Barbuda Heralds of Arms.** 24. (1) The Barbuda Herald of Arms of The Most Illustrious Order shall be appointed by the Grand Master and shall assist the Antigua Herald of arms in his duties and in all other ways ordered by the Grand Master as conducive to the good of the Order.
- Badge** (2) The Barbuda Herald of Arms shall wear his badge suspended round the neck from a Riband of the Order.
- Armorial Bearings.** (3) The Barbuda Herald of Arms may surround his Armorial ensi~~g~~ⁿs lawfully borne with a Circle of the Riband of the Order with a representation of his badge dependent therefrom.
- Privileges of Officers** 25. All the Officers of The Most Illustrious Order shall continually remain under the protection of the Grand Master and shall hold their respective Offices during good behaviour.
- Drawing of Insignia** 26. (1) The drawings of the Insignia of the Grand Master of all five grades and of the Officers of The Most Illustrious Order, depicted and emblazoned in their proper sizes and colours shall be deposited in the Chancery of Orders and Decorations of Antigua and Barbuda

(2) These regulations shall be strictly observed and the Grand Master commands and directs that, there shall be no alterations to the drawings without the approval of the Grand Master, signified by his Sign Manual and sealed with the Seal of The Most Illustrious Order.

27. The Grand Master hereby commands and directs that these Regulations shall be inviolably kept and observed within the said Most Illustrious Order, reserving to himself and his successor Grand Masters of the Order the Power of altering or abrogating the same, or adding thereto and explaining any particular therein, by a notification thereof sealed with Seal of The Most Illustrious Order which alterations and explanations shall form part of these Regulations.

Regulations etc.
Inviolable.

28. These Regulations are deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of January, 1999.

Commencement.

Made this 17th day of December, 1999.

:

James B. Carlisle,
Governor General.

Printed at the Government Printing Office, Antigua and Barbuda,
by Donovan Southwell, Government Printer
— By Authority, 2000.

800—12.00

[Price \$5.05]