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NATIONAL HONOURS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2022

Arrangement of Sections

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No. 2 of 2022

NATIONAL HONOURS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2022

AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL HONOURS ACT, 2016

[Date of Assent - 21st April, 2022]

Enacted by the Parliament of The Bahamas

1. Short title.

This Act which amends the National Honours Act, 2016 (*No. 1 of 2016*) may be cited as the National Honours (Amendment) Act, 2022.

2. Amendment of section 2 of the principal Act.

Section 2 of the principal Act is amended by the insertion, in the appropriate alphabetical order, of the following new definition —

“**civil society**” includes charities, charitable persons, international organisations with humanitarian objectives, non-governmental organisations improving health, education and the standard of living in The Bahamas;

“**public service**” includes government ministries, full and quasi government departments, units and other entities, public and private corporations wholly or partially owned by the Government;”.

3. Amendment of section 5 of the principal Act.

Section 5 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) in subsection (1)(h), by the insertion immediately before the word “honour” of the words “society of”; and
- (b) by the repeal and replacement of subsections (2), (3) and (4) as follows —

“(2) Each of the societies referred to in subsection (1) shall be

governed by regulations made by the Governor-General.

- (3) There shall exist a hierarchy among the Orders in the order in which they are listed in subsection (1) and any further society of honour constituted by the Governor-General under subsection (1)(h) shall be of the last priority unless otherwise provided.”.

4. Insertion of new section 5A into the principal Act.

The principal Act is amended by the insertion immediately after section 5 of the following new section 5A —

“5A. Badges and medals.

- (1) There shall be awarded by the Chancellor on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee —
 - (a) distinguished service badges and medals in honour of service by Bahamians serving in the public service;
 - (b) distinguished service badges for exceptional service by members of civil society;
 - (c) medals of bravery.
- (2) The Chancellor may, in his absolute discretion, award a medal of honour for long, valuable or exceptional service to the Governor-General, his spouse or the Vice Regal Household, which is worthy of special recognition.
- (3) The awards referred to in this section shall be conferred under the conditions prescribed by the Governor-General.”.

5. Amendment of section 8 of the principal Act.

Section 8 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) in subsection (1), by the deletion of the word “shall” and the substitution therefor of the word “may”;
- (b) by the repeal and replacement of subsection (3) as follows —

“(3) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), the Chancellor may make appropriate arrangements for the announcement or conferment of honours or awards where —

 - (a) the announcement or conferment is not possible on the date as provided in subsection (1) or (2); or
 - (b) the circumstances of the award requires announcement or conferment to be made on another date.”.

6. Insertion of new section 12A into the principal Act.

The principal Act is amended by the insertion immediately after section 12 of the following new section 12A —

“12A.Revocation of badges and medals.

- (1) The Chancellor, on the advice of the Advisory Committee, may by notice in the *Gazette* —
 - (a) where the conferment of a badge or medal has been announced but has not yet been conferred, cancel the intended award; or
 - (b) revoke a badge or medal where the person conferred with the badge or medal —
 - (i) is convicted of an offence under the laws of The Bahamas or any other country; or
 - (ii) behaves in a manner that is inconsistent with the purposes of the award.
- (2) Where any badge or medal is revoked, the badge or medal shall be immediately returned to the Secretary of the Awards.
- (3) Any person who fails to return a badge or medal that has been revoked, commits an offence and is liable to a fine of five thousand dollars or a term of imprisonment not exceeding three months or to both.”.

7. Amendment of section 17 of the principal Act.

Section 17 of the principal Act is amended in paragraph (b) by the deletion of the word “of” where it first appears and the substitution therefor of the word “for”.

8. Amendment of section 7 of the principal Act.

Section 7 of the principal Act is amended by the insertion of a subsection (5) to provide the following —

- “(5) Notwithstanding subsection (1) where any honour or award is to be conferred upon the Governor-General, such honour or award shall be conferred upon the Governor-General by the Chief Justice.”.