

THE NATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS ACT

Acts
21 of 1969,
27 of 1973,
26 of 2002.

[18th July, 1969.]

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

2. In this Act “Advisory Committee” means the Advisory Committee established under section 5. Interpretation.

3.—(1) There shall be six societies of honour, namely— Societies of honour.

- (a) the Order of National Hero; 26/2002
- (b) the Order of the Nation; S. 2(a)(i)
- (c) the Order of Excellence; (ii).
- (d) the Order of Merit; 27/1973
- (e) the Order of Jamaica; and S. 2 (c).
- (f) the Order of Distinction.

(2) Each of the societies referred to in paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) of subsection (1) shall be governed by such constitution as may be set out in regulations made under section 7. 27/1973
S. 2 (d).
26/2002
S. 2 (b).

4.—(1) The Order of National Hero shall consist of the members of that Order. Constitution of Order of National Hero.

(2) Every person upon whom has been conferred the honour of National Hero shall be a member of that Order.

(3) The Governor-General shall be the Chancellor of the Order of National Hero and shall, as the holder of the office of Chancellor, be responsible for the administration of that Order.

(4) The Secretary General of the Order of National Hero shall be such person as the Chancellor shall desig-

nate; he shall maintain the records of that Order, arrange for investitures and perform such other functions in relation to that Order as the Chancellor may from time to time require him to perform.

(5) The Chancellor may appoint such other officials for the Order of National Hero as he thinks fit.

(6) A person shall not be a member of the Order of National Hero by reason only of the fact that he is an official of the Order or a member of the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory
Committee.

5.—(1) There shall be an Advisory Committee for the purposes of the Order of National Hero.

First Schedule.

(2) The provisions of the First Schedule shall have effect as to the constitution of the Advisory Committee and otherwise in relation thereto.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Advisory Committee, with a view to the proper carrying out of the provisions of this Act relating to the Order of National Hero—

- (a) to make such investigations as it thinks fit to determine persons, living or dead, upon whom may be conferred the honour of National Hero; and
- (b) to report to the Prime Minister the result of those investigations.

Conferral of
the honour of
National Hero.
Second
Schedule.

6.—(1) The persons whose names are set out in the Second Schedule are hereby declared to be National Heroes.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3) the Governor-General may by instrument under the Broad Seal confer the honour of National Hero upon any person who was born in Jamaica or is, or at the time of his death was, a citizen of Jamaica and rendered to Jamaica service of the most distinguished nature.

(3) The power conferred upon the Governor-General under subsection (2) shall be exercised by him on the advice of the Prime Minister, given upon a consideration of a report of the Advisory Committee referred to in subsection (3) of section 5.

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

(5) The name of a National Hero shall, upon publication in the *Gazette* of the instrument by which the honour was conferred upon him, be added to the Second Schedule to this Act.

Second
Schedule.

(6) Every person upon whom the honour of National Hero has been conferred shall be entitled—

- (a) to wear as a decoration the prescribed insignia of the Order of National Hero;
- (b) to be styled “Rt. Excellent”.

7.—(1) The Governor-General may 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—

Regulations.

- (a) for the constitutions of the Order of the Nation, the Order of Excellence, the Order of Merit, the Order of Jamaica and the Order of Distinction, the division of any such Orders into ranks and the conferment of the honour of each of such Orders;
- (b) for medals, badges and other awards for such services or acts as may be prescribed;
- (c) for the seal and motto of each of the Orders referred to in section 3;
- (d) for investitures in relation to the Orders referred to in section 3, the motifs, insignia and regalia of each Order;

27/1973
S. 3.
26/2002
S. 3(a).

NATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

- (e) 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;
- (f) 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.

(2) No regulations shall be made under this section unless the draft thereof has been laid before the Senate and the House of Representatives and approved by a resolution of each House.

(3) Regulations made under this section may provide for the conferment of an Order under those regulations with effect from a date no earlier than the 1st day of December, 1962.

26/2002
S. 3 (b).

FIRST SCHEDULE

(Section 5)

Constitution and Procedure of the Advisory Committee

1. The Advisory Committee shall consist of not less than seven members appointed by the Prime Minister, so, however, that two shall be Senators nominated by the Senate and two shall be members of the House of Representatives nominated by that House.

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

3. The Prime Minister shall appoint a chairman of the Advisory Committee from amongst the members thereof.

4. In the case of the absence or inability to act of any member the Prime Minister may appoint any person to act temporarily in the place of such member.

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

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

6. If any member of the Advisory Committee who was nominated by the Senate or the House of Representatives ceases to be a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives, as the case may be, he shall cease to be a member of the Advisory Committee.

7. The Prime Minister may at any time revoke the appointment of any member of the Advisory Committee if he thinks it expedient so to do.

8. 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.

9. 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*.

NATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. The chairman 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.

13. 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 chairman or any other person presiding at the meeting shall have a casting vote in any case in which the voting is equal.

14. The quorum of the Advisory Committee shall be five members thereof.

15. Minutes in proper form shall be kept of the proceedings of the Advisory Committee.

16. 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.

17. Any expenses incurred by the chairman and other members of the Advisory Committee in the performance of their duties shall be paid out of moneys provided for the purpose by Parliament.

18. The office of chairman or member of the Advisory Committee shall not be a public office for the purpose of Chapter V of the Constitution of Jamaica.

SECOND SCHEDULE (Section 6)

National Heroes

- Paul Bogle
- George William Gordon
- Marcus Garvey
- Norman Washington Manley
- William Alexander Bustamante
- Nanny of the Maroons
- Sam Sharpe

G.N. 706/1969.

G.N. 23/1982.

[The inclusion of this page is authorized by L.N. 55/1983]