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ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

CHAPTER 23.17

NATIONAL HONOURS ACT

Revised Edition showing the law as at 31 December 2009

This is a revised edition of the law, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, Cap. 1.03.

This edition contains a consolidation of the following laws-

NATIONAL HONOURS ACT

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CHAPTER 23.17

NATIONAL HONOURS ACT

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CHAPTER 23.17

NATIONAL HONOURS ACT

AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION WITH RESPECT TO TITLES OF HONOUR, DECORATIONS AND MEDALS; AND TO MAKE PROVISION FOR RELATED OR INCIDENTAL MATTERS.

Short title.

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

Establishment of the Order.

2. A society of honour to be known by, and have the name, style and designation of "The Order of Honour, Decorations and Medals" is hereby established and constituted.

President and Members of the Order.

3. (1) The Order of Honour, Decorations and Medals, hereinafter called "The Order", shall consist of the Governor-General as President, together with such members and honorary members as the Governor-General shall, from time to time, appoint.

(2) The Governor-General may, by proclamation, make provision for the award of titles of Honour, for Decorations and for Medals.

(3) Every citizen of Saint Christopher and Nevis to whom the Order of National Hero, the Star of Merit or the Medal of Honour is awarded is a member of the Order.

(4) Every person, other than a citizen of Saint Christopher and Nevis, to whom the Order of Saint Christopher and Nevis, the Star of Merit or the Medal of Honour is awarded on an honorary basis is an Honorary Member of the Order. (Amended by Act 23 of 2005)

Secretary of the Order.

4. (1) The Secretary to the Governor-General shall be Secretary of the Order, and shall maintain the records of the Order, arrange for investitures and perform such other functions in respect of the Order as the Governor-General may require.

(2) The Governor-General may appoint such other officials for the Order as may be necessary.

The National Awards Committee.

5. (1) There shall be a standing National Honours Awards Committee (hereinafter called "the Committee") comprising—

- (a) a Chairperson who shall be appointed by the Prime Minister; after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition;
- (b) the Chairperson of the Public Service Commission or his or her nominee;
- (c) a representative of the trade union movement;
- (d) the president of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce or his or her nominee;

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- (e) a representative of the public appointed by the Governor-General acting in his or her own deliberate judgment;
- (f) a representative of the National church organisation;
- (g) a representative of women's organisations;
- (h) a representative of the National Youth Council;
- (i) the Cabinet Secretary who shall be the secretary of the Committee.

(2) Members of the Committee shall be appointed for a period not exceeding three years and shall be eligible for reappointment.

(3) A person is not a member or honorary member of the Order by reason only of his or her being a member of the Committee or an official of the Order.

Consideration of nominations.

- 6. The Committee shall—
 - (a) consider nominations of persons of merit who are citizens of Saint Christopher and Nevis together with recommendations and supporting material received by the Committee for awards of the Order of National Hero, the Star of Merit and the Medal of Honour;
 - (b) compile and submit to the Prime Minister with recommendations separate lists in respect of the Order of National Hero and of each medal, of those nominees to whom an award may be made;
 - (c) advise the Governor-General in respect of any matter concerning the Order referred to it by the Governor-General for consideration; and
 - (d) set and devise its own rules and procedures from time to time.

Nomination by person or body.

7. (1) Any person or organisation may submit to the Committee for consideration a nomination of a citizen of Saint Christopher and Nevis for an award of the Order of National Hero, the Star of Merit or the Medal of Honour.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), the Order of National Hero shall upon the passing of this Act, be conferred posthumously upon the late Honourable Robert Llewellyn Bradshaw without the need for such submission to, or consideration by, the said Committee, and the Governor-General shall, by Proclamation made in accordance with the provisions of section 8(1) of this Act, make the said Award, and the name of the late Honourable Robert Llewellyn Bradshaw shall be entered into the records as the first National Hero.

(3) Any person or organization may submit to the Committee for consideration a nomination of a person, including those persons referred to in section 8 subsection (4), for an award of the Order of Saint Christopher and Nevis. *(Inserted by Act 23 of 2005)*

Making of awards.

8. (1) Awards under section 7 shall be made by proclamation signed by the Governor-General and sealed with the Seal of the Order and shall have effect from the date of the affixing of the Seal unless another effective date is specified in the proclamation.

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(3) Only citizens of Saint Christopher and Nevis are eligible for the award of the Order of National Hero.

(4) Persons eligible for the award of the Order of Saint Christopher and Nevis include visiting heads of state or persons with similar status.

(5) Only persons other than citizens of Saint Christopher and Nevis are eligible for the award of the Star of Merit and the Medal of Honour on an honorary basis.

(6) Awards under subsection (5) shall be made on the advice of the Prime Minister.

(Amended by Act 23 of 2005)

Schedule.

9. (1) Awards shall be made in accordance with the Schedule to this Act.

(2) The Schedule may be amended by the Cabinet.

(3) An amendment to the Schedule shall be by Notice approved by the National Assembly and published in the *Gazette*.

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SCHEDULE

(Section 9)

1. The awards may be made posthumously.

2. The Order of National Hero may be awarded to any citizen of Saint Christopher and Nevis who has rendered distinguished and outstanding service to the Nation.

3. The Order of Saint Christopher and Nevis may be awarded to any visiting head of State or person with similar status whose Government has made substantial contribution to the development of Saint Christopher and Nevis.

4. The Star of Merit may be awarded for long and meritorious service, or for loyal and devoted service to the Nation.

5. The Medal of Honour may be awarded for outstanding and meritorious service to the Nation.

Termination of Membership in the Order

6. A person ceases to be a member or honorary member of the Order upon—

- (a) resignation from the Order which shall have effect on the date on which a resignation in writing is accepted by the Governor-General;
- (b) revocation by the Governor-General after consultation with the National Honours Awards Committee.

Designations

7. (1) A person to whom the Order of National Hero is awarded is entitled to have the letters "N.H." placed after his or her name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary.

(2) A person to whom the Order of Saint Christopher and Nevis is awarded is entitled to have the letters "S.C.N." placed after his or her name on occasions when the use of such letters is customary.

(3) A person to whom the Star of Merit is awarded is entitled to have the letters "S.M." placed after his or her name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary.

(4) A person to whom the Medal of Honour is awarded is entitled to have the letters "M.H." placed after his or her name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary.