

## **Nru. 128**

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23. 3. 90

### **MALTA**

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#### **KAMRA TAD-DEPUTATI**

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ABBOZZ ta' Ligi mressaq mill-Onorevoli Guido de Marco, M.P., Viċi Prim Ministru u Ministru ta' l-Intern u Ġustizzja, f'isem il-Prim Ministru, l-Onorevoli Eddie Fenech Adami, M.P., u moqri għall-Ewwel darba fis-Seduta tal-21 ta' Marzu, 1990.

**ATT biex jemenda l-Att ta' l-1975 dwar Ġieh ir-Repubblika.**

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**P. MUSCAT TERRIBILE**  
*Skrivan tal-Kamra tad-Deputati*

#### **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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A BILL introduced by the Honourable Guido de Marco, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Justice on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Honourable Eddie Fenech Adami, M.P., and read the First time at the Sitting of the 21st March, 1990.

**AN ACT to amend the Ġieh ir-Repubblika Act, 1975.**

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**P. MUSCAT TERRIBILE**  
*Clerk to the House of Representatives*

## ABBOZZ TA' LIĠI

### msejjah

*ATT biex jemenda l-Att ta' l-1975 dwar Ġieh ir-Repubblika.*

IL-PRESIDENT, bil-parir u l-kunsens tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, imlaqqgħa f'dan il-Parlament, u bl-awtorità ta' l-istess, hareġ b'liġi dan li ġej:—

1. Dan l-Att jista' jissejjah l-Att ta' l-1990 li jemenda l-Att dwar Ġieh ir-Repubblika, u għandu jinqara u jiftiehem haġa waħda ma' l-Att ta' l-1975 dwar Ġieh ir-Repubblika, hawnhekk iżjed 'il quddiem imsejjah "l-Att prinċipali".
 

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| Titolu<br>fil-qosor.   |
| Att XXIX<br>ta' l-1975 |
2. Fis-subartikolu (1) ta' l-artikolu 3 ta' l-Att prinċipali, minflok il-kliem "tal-Kabinett" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "tal-Prim Ministru".
 

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| Emenda ta'<br>l-artikolu 3<br>ta' l-Att<br>prinċipali. |
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3. L-artikolu 5 ta' l-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:
 

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| Emenda ta'<br>l-artikolu 5<br>ta' l-Att<br>prinċipali. |
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  - (a) id-dispożizzjoni prezenti għandha tiġi enumerata mill-ġdid bhala s-subartikolu (1) tiegħu:
  - (b) minnufih wara s-subartikolu (1) tiegħu kif enumerat mill-ġdid, għandu jiżdied dan is-subartikolu li ġej:
 

“(2) Il-Kap tax-Xirka jkollu d-dritt jilbes bhala dekorazzjoni l-insinja tax-Xirka preskritta fir-regoli li jsiru bis-sahħa ta' dan l-Att.”.
4. (1) L-artikoli 6 u 7 ta' l-Att prinċipali għandhom jithassru.
 

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| Enumerazzjoni<br>mill-ġdid<br>ta' ċerti<br>dispożizzjonijiet<br>ta' l-Att<br>prinċipali u<br>revoka ta'<br>ċerti<br>dispożizzjonijiet<br>tiegħu. |
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  - (2) It-Taqsima III ta' l-Att prinċipali għandha tithassar.
  - (3) It-Taqsima IV ta' l-Att prinċipali għandha tiġi enumerata mill-ġdid bhala t-Taqsima V tiegħu, u l-artikoli 19 u 20 ta' l-Att

prinċipali, li jinsabu f'dik it-Taqsima, għandhom jiġu enumerati mill-  
għdid bhala l-artikoli 28 u 29 tagħha rispettivament.

(4) (a) It-Taqsima II ta' l-Att prinċipali għandha tiġi  
enumerata mill-għdid bhala t-Taqsima III tiegħu;

(b) It-Titolu tat-Taqsima III ta' l-Att prinċipali kif  
enumerata mill-għdid għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:

“Midalji tar-Repubblika”;

(ċ) L-artikolu 13 ta' l-Att prinċipali għandu jithassar; u

(d) L-artikoli 8, 9, 10, 11 u 12 ta' l-Att prinċipali  
għandhom jiġu enumerati mill-għdid bhala l-artikoli 10, 11, 12, 13 u  
14 rispettivament.

Zieda  
tat-Taqsima II  
għida ma'  
l-Att prinċipali.

5. Minnufih wara l-artikolu 5 ta' l-Att prinċipali għandu jidhol  
dan li ġej:

## “TAQSIMA II

### L-Ordni Nazzjonali tal-Meritu

Twaqqif ta'  
l-Ordni u  
*Motto.*

6. (1) Għandu jkun hemm u qed titwaqqaf b'dan l-  
Att, ordni nazzjonali ta' meritu li tkun magħrufa bhala l-  
Ordni Nazzjonali tal-Meritu, hawnhekk iżjed 'il quddiem  
imsejha l-Ordni.

(2) Il-*motto* ta' l-Ordni jkun “*Virtute et  
Constantia*”.

Imsejbin  
ta'  
l-Ordni.

7. (1) L-Ordni tkun magħmula minn imsejbin li l-  
President, fuq parir miktub tal-Prim Ministru, minn żmien  
għal żmien jahtar skond u salvi d-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-  
Att.

(2) Ċittadini Maltin biss ikunu jistgħu jinhatru  
bhala msejbin ta' l-Ordni.

(3) Shubija onorarja ta' l-Ordni tista' tingħata lil  
ċittadini barranin li jkunu ddistingwew lilhom infushom bis-  
servizz tagħhom fil-promozzjoni u twettiq ta' relazzjonijiet  
internazzjonali jew li jkunu kisbu r-rispett u l-gratitudni tal-  
poplu tal-Gżejjer Maltin.

(4) Ir-riferenzi għas-shubija jew għas-shubija  
onorarja jinkludu l-grad i kollha ta' shubija elenkati fl-artikolu  
8 ta' dan l-Att.

Gradi  
ta' l-Ordni.

8. (1) L-Ordni jkun magħmul minn erba' gradi ta'  
shubija: Kumpannji ta' l-Unur, Kumpannji, Ufficiali u  
membri ordinarji.

(2) In-numru ta' msehbin f'kull grad ta' l-Ordni ghandu jkun kif ġej:

(a) mhux iktar minn tliet persuni fl-istess waqt ma ghandhom ikunu Kumpannji ta' l-Unur ta' l-Ordni:

Izda, biex jiġi stabbilit in-numru ta' msehbin fil-grad, ma ghandhomx jitqiesu dawk l-imsehbin li jkollhom jew kellhom il-kariga ta' President ta' Malta jew ta' Prim Ministru;

(b) mhux iktar minn tnax-il persuna fl-istess waqt ma ghandhom ikunu Kumpannji ta' l-Ordni:

Izda mhux iktar minn erba' membri ta' dan il-grad ma ghandhom jinhatru fl-1990 u mhux iktar minn żewġ persuni f'kull sena li tiġi wara;

(ċ) mhux iktar minn għoxrin persuna fl-istess waqt ma ghandhom ikunu Uffiċjali ta' l-Ordni:

Izda mhux iktar minn seba' membri ta' dan il-grad ma ghandhom jinhatru fl-1990, u mhux iktar minn tliet persuni f'kull sena li tiġi wara;

(d) mhux iktar minn mitt persuna fl-istess waqt ma ghandhom ikunu membri ordinarji ta' l-Ordni:

Izda mhux iktar minn għoxrin membru ta' dan il-grad ma ghandhom jinhatru fl-1990, u mhux iktar minn għaxar persuni f'kull sena li tiġi wara.

(3) Meta jkun inhatar in-numru totali ta' msehbin fi grad, ghandhom jinhatru iktar imsehbin f'dak il-grad meta jiġi li jkun hemm vakanza.

(4) Il-hatriet ikunu b'seħħ minn Jum ir-Repubblika.

(5) Id-dispożizzjonijiet tas-subartikoli (2), (3) u (4) ta' dan l-artikolu ma ghandhomx ikunu jghoddu għall-hatriet ta' msehbin onorarji.

(6) Il-President ta' Malta u l-Prim Ministru ghandhom bis-saħħa tal-kariga tagħhom ikunu Kumpannji ta' l-Unur ta' l-Ordni. Il-Presidenti u l-Prim Ministri kollha preċedenti jkunu Kumpannji ta' l-Unur ta' l-Ordni.

Titoli u  
l-Insinja  
ta'  
l-Ordni.

9. (1) Imsieheb jew imsieheb onorarju ta' l-Ordni jkollu jedd li jilbes l-insinja ta' l-Ordni kif preskritt għall-grad tiegħu jew tagħha fir-regoli li jsiru skond dan l-Att.

(2) L-imsehbin ta' l-Ordni jkollhom il-jedd li jġibu dawn l-ittri wara isimhom fl-okkażjonijiet kollha meta dawn l-ittri soltu jintużaw —

- (a) Kumpann ta' l-Unur: M.K.U.;
- (b) Kumpann: M.K.;
- (ċ) Uffiċjal: M.U.;
- (d) Membru: M.M.”.

Emenda ta' l-artikoli 10 u 11 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

6. Fis-subartikolu (1) ta' l-artikolu 10 ta' l-Att prinċipali kif enumerat mill-ġdid, u fis-subartikolu (1) ta' l-artikolu 11 ta' l-Att prinċipali kif enumerat mill-ġdid, minflok il-kliem “tal-Kabinett” ghandhom jidhlu l-kliem “tal-Prim Ministru”.

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 12 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

7. L-artikolu 12 ta' l-Att prinċipali, kif enumerat mill-ġdid, ghandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) minflok il-kliem “tliet ċittadini Maltin fl-1975” fil-paragrafu (a) tas-subartikolu (1) tiegħu ghandhom jidhlu l-kliem “għoxrin ċittadin Malti fl-1990”;

(b) minflok il-kliem “żewġ ċittadini Maltin” fil-paragrafu (b) tas-subartikolu (1) tiegħu, ghandhom jidhlu l-kliem “għaxar ċittadini Maltin”; u

(ċ) minflok il-kelma “tletin” kull fejn tinsab fis-subartikolu (2) tiegħu, ghandha tidhol il-kelma “mija”.

Żieda ta' l-artikoli 15 sa 27 ma' l-Att prinċipali.

8. Minnufih wara l-artikolu 14 ta' l-Att prinċipali, kif enumerat mill-ġdid, ghandu jidhol dan li ġej:

“Midalji ta' Tifkira Nazzjonali.

15. (1) Il-President, li jaġixxi skond il-parir tal-Prim Ministru, jista' jordna l-hruġ ta' midalji biex ifakkru ġrajja, jew l-anniversarju ta' xi ġrajja, ta' importanza nazzjonali.

(2) Il-Midalji ta' Tifkira Nazzjonali ghandhom jinghataw mill-President, li jaġixxi fuq il-parir tal-Prim Ministru, lil ċittadini Maltin li jkun jixriqilhom l-unur.

(3) Ma ghandhomx jifakkru iktar minn żewġ grajjiet nazzjonali bil-hruġ ta' midalji f'perjodu ta' għaxar snin, u daww il-midalji ghandhom biss jinharġu sabiex ifakkru l-ġrajja nazzjonali nnifisha, il-hamsa u għoxrin, il-hamsin, jew il-hamsa u sebgħin sena tagħha jew xi wiehed miċ-ċentenarji jew nofs ċentenarji tagħha.

Midalji għal Servizz Twil u Effiċjenti.

16. (1) Ghandha tinghata midalja, li tkun magħrufa bhala Midalja għal Servizz Twil u Effiċjenti, hawnhekk iżjed 'il quddiem f'dan l-artikolu msejha l-midalja, lil membri ta' korpi dixxiplinati li jikkwalifikaw għaliha, mill-Ministri responsabbli għall-korpi. Wara li tinghata l-midalja, jistgħu jinghataw *clasps* għal servizz iktar kwalifikanti għal dan.

(2) Is-servizz kwalifikanti għall-midalji u għall-*clasps* ikun dak stipulat fir-regoli li jsiru skond dan l-Att.

(3) Il-membri u l-ex-membri kollha tal-korpi dixxiplinati li jkunu taw is-servizz tagħhom, b'kollox, tul il-perjodu stipulat fir-regoli magħmulin skond dan l-Att, u li jkunu taw servizz effiċjenti matul iż-żmien kollu, ikunu eliġibbli għall-ghoti tal-midalja u tal-*clasp*.

(4) Għall-fini ta' dan l-artikolu, korpi dixxiplinati ifissru —

(a) il-qawwa navali, militari jew ta' l-ajru tal-Gvern ta' Malta;

(b) il-Korp tal-Pulizija;

(ċ) kull korp ieħor tal-pulizija mwaqqaf bis-saħha ta' liġi f'Malta; u

(d) uffiċjali li jservu fil-korp tal-*Habs* ta' Malta.

Ilbies ta' midalji.

17. Kull min tingħatalu Midalja ta' Tifkira Nazzjonali jew Midalja għal Servizz Twil u Effiċjenti jkollu dritt jilbisha skond ir-regoli magħmulin skond dan l-Att.

#### TAQSIMA IV

##### Dispożizzjonijiet applikabbli għat-Taqsimiet I, II u III

Nomini għal shubija tax-Xirka u ta' l-Ordni, u għall-ghoti ta' Midalji.

18. (1) Għandu jitwaqqaf Kumitat tan-Nomini, hawnhekk iżjed 'il quddiem imsejjah il-Kumitat, li jinħatar mill-Prim Ministru għal dak iż-żmien u skond dawk il-kondizzjonijiet li l-Prim Ministru jista' jstabilixxi, sabiex jipproponi kandidati għal shubija fix-Xirka, fl-Ordni u għall-ghoti ta' Midalji; is-Segretarju tal-Kabinett ikun iċ-*Chairman* ta' dan il-Kumitat.

(2) Meta l-Kumitat jipproponi l-kandidati lill-Prim Ministru, dan għandu jiżgura li nomina tkun konformi mal-kriterji għas-shubija fix-Xirka jew fl-Ordni, jew għall-ghoti ta' Midalja skond il-każ, u, għal dan il-ghan, il-Kumitat ikollu s-setgħa li jirregola l-proċedura tiegħu nnifsu.

Uffiċjali.

19. (1) Il-President ta' Malta jkun il-Kap tax-Xirka u ta' l-Ordni.

(2) Is-Segretarju tal-Kabinett ikun il-Kanċillier tax-Xirka u ta' l-Ordni.

(3) Il-President jista', bil-parir tal-Prim Ministru, jaħtar dawk l-uffiċjali l-oħrajn tax-Xirka u ta' l-Ordni skond ma jitqiesu mehtigin.

(4) Persuna ma titqiesx li hi msiehba tax-Xirka jew ta' l-Ordni għaliex biss hija tkun uffiċjal tax-Xirka jew ta' l-Ordni.

Dokument  
tal-hatra.

20. Il-hatriet bhala msieheb jew imsieheb onorarju tax-Xirka jew ta' l-Ordni ghandhom isiru b'dokument ufficjali li jkun iffirmit mill-Kap tax-Xirka jew ta' l-Ordni, bl-awtorità tal-Prim Ministru, u sigillat bis-Sigill tax-Xirka jew ta' l-Ordni, skond il-każ.

Kanċillier  
tax-Xirka  
u ta'  
l-Ordni.

21. Il-Kanċillier tax-Xirka u ta' l-Ordni ghandhom iżommu registri li jkunu juru l-ismijiet ta' l-imsehbin u ta' l-imsehbin onorarji tax-Xirka u ta' l-Ordni, u dawk id-dokumenti kollha li jkollhom x'jaqsmu mas-shubija fl-Ordni hekk kif jista' jiġi preskritt f'regolamenti li jsiru skond dan l-Att, u ghandhom iwettqu dawk il-funzjonijiet l-oħrajn kollha dwar ix-Xirka jew l-Ordni hekk kif il-Kap tax-Xirka jew ta' l-Ordni jista' jehtieg li jitwettqu jew hekk kif jista' jiġi preskritt b'dan l-Att jew b'xi regoli li jsiru bis-sahha tiegħu.

Pubbli-  
kazzjoni  
fil-  
Gazzetta  
ta' hatriet  
u ghotjiet.

22. Il-hatra u l-promozzjoni ta' l-imsehbin u ta' l-imsehbin onorarji tax-Xirka u ta' l-Ordni u l-ghoti ta' Midalji skond id-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att ghandhom jiġu avżati fil-Gazzetta.

Temm ta'  
shubija  
fix-Xirka  
eċċ.

23. (1) Persuna ttemm is-shubija tagħha fix-Xirka jew fl-Ordni, jew iż-żamma ta' midalja mogħtija bis-sahha ta' dan l-Att meta:

(a) hija tmurt;

(b) hija tirriżenja mix-Xirka jew mill-Ordni, hliet fil-każ ta' dawk il-persuni li jkunu msehbin bis-sahha ta' kariga li jkunu jew kienu jokkupaw, jew bl-ghoti lura tal-midalja. It-temm jibda jsehħ mill-jum meta r-riżenja mix-Xirka jew mill-Ordni tasal għand il-Kanċillier tax-Xirka jew ta' l-Ordni, jew il-midalja tinghata lura lis-Segretarju tal-Kabinett;

(ċ) dik il-persuna tkun hatja ta' kondotta li tirrendiha mhux misthoqqa li tibqa' msieħba ta' l-Ordni jew tax-Xirka jew li żżomm midalja, u l-hatra tintemm jew l-ghoti tal-midalja jiġi revokat mill-President li jaġixxi fuq riżoluzzjoni tal-Kamra tad-Deputati skond dawk il-proċeduri li jistgħu jiġu preskritti b'regoli li jsiru bis-sahha ta' dan l-Att.

(2) It-temm tas-shubija skond il-paragrafi (b) u (ċ) tas-subartikolu (1) ta' dan l-artikolu għandu jiġi avżat fil-Gazzetta.

Għoti lura  
ta' l-insinja  
eċċ.

24. (1) Meta b'mod iehor li ma jkunx il-mewt, persuna ttemm is-shubija tagħha fix-Xirka jew fl-Ordni, jew iż-żamma tagħha ta' midalja, hija għandha minnufih tagħti lura lill-Kanċillier tax-Xirka jew ta' l-Ordni l-insinja tax-Xirka jew ta' l-Ordni li kienu ngħatawliha; il-midalja għandha tinghata lura lis-Segretarju tal-Kabinett.

(2) Hekk kif sieheb ta' l-Ordni jittella' għal grad oghla, huwa għandu jagħti lura lir-Registratur l-insinja tal-grad li kien fih qabel ma jkun ittella'.

(3) Min ikollu midalja ma jkunx mehtieg li jagħti lura l-midalja hekk kif jiddaħhal fis-shubija tax-Xirka jew ta' l-Ordni.

Sigill  
tax-Xirka  
u ta'  
l-Ordni.

25. (1) Ebda hatra fix-Xirka jew fl-Ordni u ebda temm ta' dik il-hatra ma tkun valida hlief jekk ikollha s-Sigill tax-Xirka jew ta' l-Ordni fuqha skond il-każ.

(2) Is-Sigilli tax-Xirka u ta' l-Ordni jinżammu fil-kustodja tal-President.

Setgħa  
li jsiru  
regoli.

26. Il-President jista' minn żmien għal żmien, fuq il-parir tal-Prim Ministru, jagħmel regoli —

(a) li jkunu jippreskrivu dak kollu li skond id-dispożizzjonijiet ta' qabel dan ta' dan l-Att jista' jew jehtieg li jiġi preskritt;

(b) dwar id-disinn, forma u kontenut ta' l-insinja u tal-midalji u l-protokoll ta' kif jintlibsu dawn l-insinji u midalji;

(c) dwar il-formalità ta' l-investitura u għotja;

(d) biex jagħmel kull dispożizzjoni oħra anċillari li tkun mehtieġa jew maħsuba xierqa sabiex jingħata effett aħjar għal kull dispożizzjoni ta' dan l-Att.

Użu mhux  
awtorizzat  
ta' insinja  
tax-Xirka,  
ta' l-Ordni  
eċċ.

27. Kull min jagħmel użu minn insinja tax-Xirka jew ta' l-Ordni jew ta' midalja stipulata fi jew bis-saħħa ta' dan l-Att, mingħajr ma jkollu dritt jagħmel dan skond id-dispożizzjonijiet ta' qabel dan ta' dan l-Att, jew li jqiegħed jew iġieghel li jitqegħdu wara ismu xi ittri li jfissru jew juru li jfissru shubija fix-Xirka jew fl-Ordni jew iż-żamma ta' midalja skond dan l-Att, mingħajr ma jkollu dritt jagħmel dan skond id-dispożizzjonijiet ta' qabel dan ta' dan l-Att, ikun hati ta' reat u jehel, meta jinsab hati, multa ta' mhux anqas minn mitt lira u mhux iżjed minn hames mitt lira.”.

9. Fis-subartikolu (1) ta' l-artikolu 29 ta' l-Att prinċipali, kif enumerat mill-ġdid, minflok il-kliem “tal-Kabinett” għandhom jidhlu l-kliem “tal-Prim Ministru”.

Emenda ta'  
l-artikolu 29  
ta' l-Att  
prinċipali.

### Għanijiet u Raġunijiet

L-Għan ta' l-Abbozz huwa biex jemenda l-Att prinċipali billi jipprovdi għat-twaqqif ta' l-Ordni Nazzjonali tal-Meritu, biex jipprovdi għall-ghoti ta' midalji biex ifakkar grajjiet nazzjonali, Midalji għal Servizz Twil u Effiċjenti fil-korpi dixxiplinati, u għal hwejjeġ ohra anċillari jew inċidentali għal dawn l-għanijiet.

**A BILL  
entitled**

*AN ACT to amend the Ġieħ ir-Repubblika Act, 1975*

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. This Act may be cited as the Ġieħ ir-Repubblika (Amendment) Act, 1990, and shall be read and construed as one with the Ġieħ ir-Repubblika Act, 1975, hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”.</p>   | <p>Short title.<br/>Act XXIX<br/>of 1975</p>  |
| <p>2. In subsection (1) of section 3 of the principal Act for the words “the Cabinet” there shall be substituted the words “the Prime Minister”.</p>   | <p>Amendment of<br/>section 3<br/>of the<br/>principal Act.</p>   |
| <p>3. Section 5 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(a) the present provision shall be renumbered as subsection (1) thereof; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(b) immediately after subsection (1) thereof as renumbered, there shall be added the following subsection:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“(2) The Head of the <i>Xirka</i> shall be entitled to wear as a decoration the insignia of the <i>Xirka</i> prescribed in the rules made under this Act.”.</p> | <p>Amendment of<br/>section 5<br/>of the<br/>principal Act.</p>   |
| <p>4. (1) Sections 6 and 7 of the principal Act shall be repealed.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(2) Part III of the principal Act shall be repealed.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(3) Part IV of the principal Act shall be renumbered as Part V thereof, and sections 19 and 20 of the principal Act, therein contained, shall be renumbered as sections 28 and 29 thereof respectively.</p>  | <p>Renumbering of<br/>certain provisions<br/>of the principal Act<br/>and repeal of certain<br/>provisions thereof.</p> |

(4) (a) Part II of the principal Act shall be renumbered as Part III thereof;

(b) the title of Part III of the principal Act as renumbered shall be substituted by the following:

“Medals of the Republic”;

(c) section 13 of the principal Act shall be deleted; and

(d) sections 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the principal Act shall be renumbered as sections 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 respectively.

Addition of new Part II to the principal Act.

5. Immediately after section 5 of the principal Act there shall be inserted the following:

“PART II

**The National Order of Merit**

Institution and motto of Order.

6. (1) There shall be, and is hereby instituted, a national order of merit to be known as The National Order of Merit, hereinafter referred to as the Order.

(2) The motto of the Order shall be “*virtute et constantia*”.

Members of the Order.

7. (1) The Order shall consist of members whom the President, on the written advice of the Prime Minister, shall from time to time appoint, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of this Act.

(2) Only Maltese citizens shall be eligible to be appointed as members of the Order.

(3) Honorary membership of the Order may be conferred on foreign nationals who have distinguished themselves by their service in the promotion and fostering of international relations or who have earned the respect and gratitude of the people of the Maltese Islands.

(4) References to membership or honorary membership shall include all the grades of membership listed in section 8 of this Act.

Grades of the Order.

8. (1) The Order shall consist of four grades of membership: Companions of Honour, Companions, Officers and ordinary members.

(2) The number of members in each grade of the Order shall be as follows:

(a) not more than three persons at any one time shall be Companions of Honour of the Order:

Provided that, in determining the number of members in this grade, no account shall be taken of such members who hold or have held the Office of President of Malta or of Prime Minister;

(b) not more than twelve persons at any one time shall be Companions of the Order:

Provided that not more than four members of this grade shall be appointed in 1990 and not more than two persons in each year thereafter;

(c) not more than twenty persons at any one time shall be Officers of the Order:

Provided that not more than seven members of this grade shall be appointed in 1990, and not more than three persons in each year thereafter;

(d) not more than one hundred persons at any one time shall be ordinary members of the Order:

Provided that not more than twenty members of this grade shall be appointed in 1990, and not more than ten persons in each year thereafter.

(3) Where the total number of members in a grade has been appointed, additional members shall be appointed to that grade when a vacancy occurs.

(4) Appointments shall have effect on Republic Day.

(5) The provisions of subsections (2), (3) and (4) of this section shall not apply to appointments of honorary members.

(6) The President of Malta and the Prime Minister shall by virtue of their offices be Companions of Honour of the Order. All former Presidents of Malta and all former Prime Ministers shall be Companions of Honour of the Order.

Designations  
and Insignia  
of the Order.

9. (1) A member or honorary member of the Order shall be entitled to wear such insignia of the Order as prescribed for his or her grade in the rules made under this Act.

(2) Members of the Order shall be entitled to place the following letters after their names on all occasions where the use of such letters is customary —

(a) Companion of Honour: M.K.U.;

(b) Companion: M.K.;

(c) Officer: M.U.;

(d) Member: M.M.”.

Amendment of sections 10 and 11 of the principal Act.

6. In subsection (1) of section 10 of the principal Act, as renumbered, and in subsection (1) of section 11 of the principal Act as renumbered, for the words “the Cabinet” wherever they occur, there shall be substituted the words “the Prime Minister”.

Amendment of section 12 of the principal Act.

7. Section 12 of the principal Act, as renumbered, shall be amended as follows:

(a) for the words “three Maltese citizens in 1975” in paragraph (a) of subsection (1) thereof there shall be substituted the words “twenty Maltese citizens in 1990”;

(b) for the words “two Maltese citizens” in paragraph (b) of subsection (1) thereof, there shall be substituted the words “ten Maltese citizens”; and

(c) for the word “thirty” wherever it occurs in subsection (2) thereof, there shall be substituted the words “one hundred”.

Addition of sections 15 to 27 to the principal Act.

8. Immediately after section 14 of the principal Act, as renumbered, there shall be inserted the following:

“National Commemorative Medals.

15. (1) The President, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister, may cause the striking of medals to mark an event, or the anniversary of an event, of national importance.

(2) National Commemorative Medals shall be awarded by the President, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister, to Maltese citizens who are worthy of the honour.

(3) No more than two national events shall be commemorated by the striking of medals in any period of ten years, and such medals shall only be struck to mark the national event itself, its twenty-fifth, fiftieth or seventy-fifth anniversary or any of its centenaries or half centenaries.

Long and Efficient Service Medals.

16. (1) A Medal, to be known as Long and Efficient Service Medal, hereinafter in this section called the medal shall be awarded to qualifying members of disciplined forces by the Ministers responsible therefor. After the award of the medal, clasps may be given for additional qualifying service.

(2) Qualifying service for the medal and for clasps shall be that laid down in the rules made under this Act.

(3) All members and former members of disciplined forces who have served, on an aggregate basis, for the period stipulated in the rules made under this Act, and have rendered efficient service throughout, shall be eligible to be awarded the medal and clasp.

(4) For the purpose of this section disciplined forces mean

(a) a naval, military or airforce of the Government of Malta;

(b) the Malta Police Force;

(c) any other police force established by law in Malta; and

(d) the Malta Prison service.

Wearing  
of medals.

17. A person to whom a National Commemorative Medal or a Long and Efficient Service Medal has been awarded, shall be entitled to wear the medal in accordance with the rules made under this Act.

#### PART IV

##### Provisions applicable to Parts I, II and III

Nominations  
for  
membership  
of the  
*Xirka* and the  
Order, and  
for the award  
of medals.

18. (1) There shall be a Nominations Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, appointed by the Prime Minister, for such term and under such conditions as the Prime Minister may determine, to propose candidates for membership of the *Xirka*, the Order and for the award of medals; the Secretary to the Cabinet shall be the Chairman of this Committee.

(2) In proposing candidates to the Prime Minister, the Committee shall ensure that a nomination meets the criteria for admission to the membership of the *Xirka* or the Order, or for the award of a medal as the case may be, and, for this purpose, the Committee shall have power to regulate its own procedure.

Officials.

19. (1) The President of Malta shall be the Head of the *Xirka* and of the Order.

(2) The Secretary to the Cabinet shall be the Chancellor of the *Xirka* and of the Order.

(3) The President may, on the advice of the Prime Minister, appoint such other officials of the *Xirka* and of the Order as may be considered necessary.

(4) A person shall not be considered a member of the *Xirka* or of the Order by reason only of his being an official of the *Xirka* or of the Order.

Instrument  
of appoint-  
ment.

20. Appointments as member or honorary member of the *Xirka* or of the Order shall be made by an official instrument signed by the Head of the *Xirka* or the Order, under the authority of the Prime Minister, and sealed with the Seal of the *Xirka* or of the Order, as the case may be.

Chancellor of  
the *Xirka*  
and of the  
Order.

21. The Chancellor of the *Xirka* and of the Order shall keep registers showing the names of the members and honorary members of the *Xirka* and of the Order, and such other records relating to membership of the Order as may be prescribed in rules made under this Act, and shall perform such other functions in respect thereof as the Head of the *Xirka* or of the Order may require him to perform or as may be prescribed by the Act or any rules made thereunder.

Gazetting of  
Appoint-  
ments and  
awards.

22. The appointment and promotion of members and honorary members of the *Xirka* and of the Order and the award of medals under the provisions of this Act shall be notified in the Gazette.

Termination  
of member-  
ship of  
*Xirka* etc.

23. (1) A person shall cease to be a member of the *Xirka* or of the Order, or to be the holder of a medal awarded under this Act upon:

(a) his or her death;

(b) his or her resignation from the *Xirka* or the Order, except in the case of those persons who are members in virtue of an office they hold or have held, or by the return of the medal. The cessation shall take effect from the date on which the resignation from the *Xirka* or the Order is received by the Chancellor of the *Xirka* or the Order, or the medal is returned to the Secretary to the Cabinet;

(c) if such person has been guilty of such conduct as makes him unworthy of continuing to be a member of the Order or of the *Xirka* or the holder of a medal, and the appointment is terminated or the award of the medal is revoked by the President acting on a resolution of the House of Representatives in accordance with such procedures as may be prescribed by rules made under this Act.

(2) Termination of membership in terms of paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) of this section shall be notified in the Gazette.

Return of  
insignia etc.

24. (1) Where a person ceases, other than by death, to be a member of the *Xirka* or the Order, or to be the holder of a medal, he shall forthwith return to the Chancellor of the *Xirka* or the Order the insignia of the *Xirka* or the Order that was awarded to him or her; the medal shall be returned to the Secretary to the Cabinet.

(2) Upon promotion to a higher grade, a member of the Order shall return to the Registrar the insignia of the grade to which he belonged before promotion.

(3) The holder of a medal shall not be required to return the medal on his admission to membership of the *Xirka* or the Order.

Seal of the  
*Xirka* and  
of the  
Order.

25. (1) No appointment to the *Xirka* or to the Order and no termination of any such appointment shall be valid unless sealed with the seal of the *Xirka* or the Order as the case may be.

(2) The Seals of the *Xirka* and of the Order shall be kept in the custody of the President.

Power to  
make rules.

26. The President may from time to time, on the advice of the Prime Minister, make rules —

(a) prescribing anything which under the foregoing provisions of this Act may be or is required to be prescribed;

(b) respecting the design, form and content of the insignia and medals and the protocol of wearing such insignia and medals;

(c) respecting the formalities of investiture and award;

(d) making any other ancillary provision which may be required or deemed expedient in order to give better effect to any of the provisions of this Act.

Unauthorised  
use of  
insignia of  
the *Xirka*,  
Order, etc.

27. Any person who makes use of the insignia of the *Xirka* or of the Order or of a medal established in or under this Act, without being entitled thereto in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this Act, or who places or causes to be placed after his name any letters indicating or purporting to indicate membership of the *Xirka* or of the Order or the holding of a medal under this Act, without being entitled thereto in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this Act, shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine (*multa*) of not less than one hundred liri and not exceeding five hundred liri.”

9. In subsection (1) of section 29 of the principal Act, as renumbered, for the words “the Cabinet” there shall be substituted the words “the Prime Minister”.

Amendment to  
section 29 of the  
principal Act.

### Objects and Reasons

The Object of the Bill is to amend the principal Act by providing for the institution of The National Order of Merit, to provide for the award of medals to commemorate national events, medals for Long and Efficient Service in disciplined forces, and for matters ancillary or incidental to these purposes.