



# National Symbols Act

2017 Cap 1

Made 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
Coming into force 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019

**This is a verified English version.** According to the *Government Affairs Act 2009 Cap 14*, verified version of legislations and government instruments shall be gazetted in the *Blakehall Gazette* promptly.

As per the *Official Languages Act 2012 Cap 1*, English version is the sole authoritative version of all aforementioned instruments. In the event of discrepancy and inconsistency, the English version prevails.

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**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

## **Section I**

### **Preliminary**

#### **0. Citation, long title and commencement**

- (1) This Act can be cited as the *National Symbols 2017*, and this is an Act to make provisions about the use of national symbols; and for matters connected therewith.
- (2) Date of commencement of this Act shall be 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2019.
- (3) All files related to this Act shall be published on the Government's website.

#### **1. Interpretations of terms and expressions**

- a. *public holidays* refers to holidays as prescribed in the *List of Public Holidays*.
- b. *the Realm* refers to the Kingdom of United Counties.

[cf. §1 – Constitution, 2017 Cap 0]

- c. *designated occasions* refers to special occasions which are specifically stipulated by statutes, such as an Act of Parliament or a statutory instrument, related to this Act.
- d. *national symbols* means symbols of the Realm considering and manifesting itself to the world as a national community.

#### **2. Amendments, repeals and revocations**

- (1) Any amendments, repeals and revocations, related to this Act, shall be specified if incurred, in the schedule, when appropriate.

#### **3. Manufacture of and general provisions for tangible national symbols**

- (1) It is restricted, to display broken or contaminated tangible national symbols or tangible national symbols that are made off the specifications as stipulated by this Act.
- (2) If any tangible national symbols manufactured or sold by any plant or store is inconsistent with the standards regulated by this Act, the local government shall demand correction.
- (3) The Royal Coat of Arms or its design must not be displayed or used in—
  - a. trademarks or advertisements;
  - b. furnishings or ornaments in everyday life;
  - c. private activities of celebration or condolence; or
  - d. other occasions on which or places at which the display or use of the Royal Coat of Arms or its design is restricted or prohibited under a stipulation made by a statutory instrument.
- (4) The preceding *Subsection (3)* excluding *Clause b* is applicable in the use of the Realm Flag.
- (5) A person who desecrates the tangible national symbols by publicly and wilfully burning, mutilating, scrawling on, defiling or trampling on it commits an offence, and is liable on conviction to the deprivation of citizenship.

## Section II

### The Realm Flag

#### 4. The Realm Flag

- (1) The Realm Flag is the national flag of the Realm.
- (2) Pattern of the flag shall be illustrated by *Sch. A* of this Act.
- (3) In this Section, the terms ‘the national flag’ or ‘the flag’ refer to the Realm Flag.

#### 5. Etiquette

- (1) No disrespect should be shown to the Realm Flag. Use of the flag must abide by the subsections as follows—
  - a. The flag should never be displayed upside down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
  - b. The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.
  - c. The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
  - d. The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free.
  - e. The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.
  - f. The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
  - g. The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.
  - h. The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
  - i. The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.
  - j. No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organisations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
  - k. The flag should not be dipped to any person or thing.
  - l. The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way.

#### 6. Usage

- (1) Any national flag hung outdoors shall be hung from sunrise until sunset.
- (2) When the Realm Flag is used together with a foreign flag, the size of the flags and the lengths of the poles must be equal. The Realm Flag shall be placed to the right of the foreign flag. The foreign flag shall be placed to the left of the Realm Flag. If the flags cross each other, the pole of the Realm Flag shall be on the top. When the national flag is used together with any other flag, the aforementioned practice shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

- (3) Governmental organisations, public bodies, local autonomous entities, schools and military establishments shall install the flag pole in a proper location and raise and lower the flag every day.
- (4) During the raising and lowering of the flag, people should be on their feet where they are and pay visual respect.
- (5) Unless there is a special situation in which the flag must be hung, the flag shall be lowered when it rains. After the rain stops, the flag shall be raised again.
- (6) When any diplomatic missions, military ships or boats raise, lower or hang the flag, this Act shall be applicable, as well as in international practice.
- (7) On designated occasions and in public holidays, the flag can be hung by all individuals and organisations as a means of celebration and commemoration while adhering to this Act.

#### **7. Flying in half-mast**

- (1) In lowering the flag to half-mast, the flag shall first be raised to the top of the pole and then lowered to the position equivalent to the half of the length of the pole. To remove the flag, the flag shall first be raised to the top of the pole again and then lowered.
- (2) In the following occasions, the flag shall fly in half-mast to express the condolences of the entire Rabian people—
  - a. Decease of The Sovereign and other Royal Household members,
  - b. Catastrophes which resulted massive casualties,
  - c. Decease of the members of the Order of the Companions of Honour, and
  - d. Other occasions as ordered by royal decrees, Acts of Parliament, or statutory instruments according to the law.

## Section III

### The Royal Coat of Arms

#### 8. The Royal Coat of Arms

- (1) The Royal Coat of Arms is the symbol of the Sovereign and the Realm.
- (2) Pattern of the Royal Coat of Arms is illustrated by *Sch. B* of this Act.

#### 9. Usage

- (1) The Royal Coat of Arms and its derivative designs shall be on all official instruments and correspondence of the Realm.
- (2)
  - a. The Sovereign may stipulate the organisations which must display or use the Royal Coat of Arms, and the other places at which, the occasions on which, the manner in which and the conditions under which, the Royal Coat of Arms must be displayed or used.
  - b. The Sovereign may also authorise, restrict or prohibit the display or use of the Royal Coat of Arms or their designs in the stipulation. The stipulation can be in the form of issuing a royal decree, or can be directed to the Government for implementation.

## Section IV

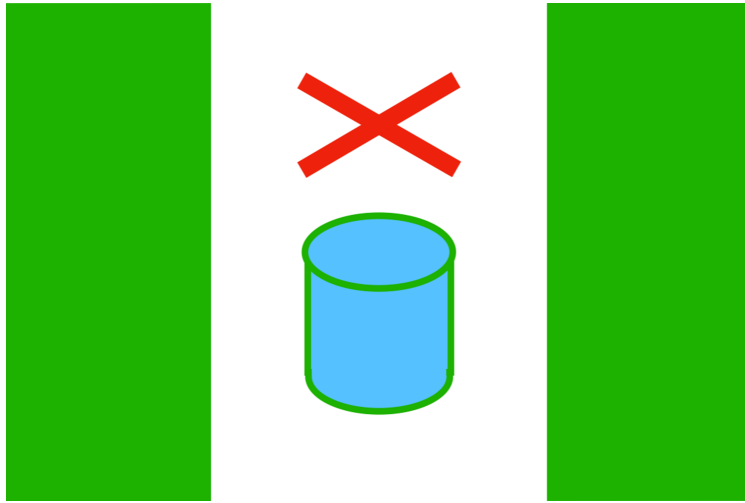
### The national anthem

#### 8. The national anthem

- (1) The national anthem is *God Save The Queen*, which is the symbol of the Sovereign and the Realm, and which notation is recorded in *Sch. C* of this Act.
- (2) Only the English lyrics are officially recognised as the lyrics of *God Save The Queen*.

#### 9. Usage

- (1) The national anthem must be played and sung in a way that is in keeping with its dignity.
- (2) While the national anthem is being played and sung, the etiquette to be followed by the persons who take part in or attend the occasion is—
  - a. to stand solemnly and deport themselves with dignity, and
  - b. to not behave in a way disrespectful to the national anthem.
- (3) The national anthem, or the lyrics or score of the national anthem, must not be used—
  - a. in a trade mark or commercial advertisement;
  - b. at a private funeral event; or
  - c. on an occasion, at a place, or for a purpose, stipulated by a statute.
- (4) The national anthem must not be used as background music in a public place.
- (5) A person commits an offence if the person, without reasonable excuse, uses the national anthem, or the lyrics or score of the national anthem, in contravention of subsection (3) or (4).
- (6) A person commits an offence if, with intent to insult the national anthem, the person intentionally—
  - a. alters the lyrics or score of the national anthem publicly,
  - b. plays and sings the national anthem in a distorted or disrespectful way publicly, or
  - c. publish the altered lyrics or score of the national anthem, or the national anthem sung in a distorted and disrespectful way, by communicating to the public in any form, including speaking, writing, printing, displaying notices, broadcasting, screening and playing of tapes or other recorded material or distributing, disseminating or making available to the public, as means to undermine the national anthem as the symbol of the Sovereign and the Realm,and the person who commits an offence in this Article is liable on conviction to the deprivation of citizenship.

**Schedule A****Pattern of the Realm Flag****DESCRIPTION**

The ratio of length and width of the flag shall be 1.5.  
The flag consists of three identical stripes with green, white and green colours respectively.

On the centre of the white stripe, there is a pattern of the Barenolope.



## Schedule B

### Pattern of the Royal Coat of Arms



#### DESCRIPTION

The Coat of Arms shall consist of a shield, on which there are patterns of lions, naval crown, fleurs-de-lis and dragon, which is supported by a crowned lion and a dragon. The shield and supporters stood on a compartment, consisting of an island, with a scroll bearing the words '*Dieu et mon droit*', and a badge with a pattern of the Barenolope. On the top, there is a torse and a St Edward Crown.

**Schedule C**Notation and lyrics of *God Save The Queen***God Save The Queen**

Trad.

**Andante**

*mf*

*f*

*ff*

**LYRICS**

God save our gracious Queen!  
 Long live our noble Queen!  
 God save The Queen!  
 Send her victorious,  
 Happy and glorious,  
 Long to reign over us:  
 God save The Queen!