

## **BILL ON THE ARMED FORCES**

- Introduction and title
1. (a) This Act lays down the responsibilities, duties, norms and principles to be adhered to, powers, immunities, privileges, the exercise of and the division of the powers of the Armed Forces and all other principles pertaining to the Maldivian Armed Forces.
- (b) This Act shall be cited as the “Act on the Armed Forces”.
- The objectives of the Armed Forces
2. The main objectives of the Armed Forces are:-
- (i) to protect, uphold and maintain the Constitution of the Republic of the Maldives and the Maldivian State;
- (ii) to protect and defend the independence and the sovereignty of the Republic of the Maldives in accordance with the Constitution;
- (iii) to protect the lawfully elected Government of the Republic of the Maldives from any action that may in any way diminish the stature of the Government of the Republic of the Maldives;
- (iv) to take all necessary action in providing speedy and prompt humanitarian assistance in all emergencies affecting the State.
- The oath of the Armed Forces
3. (a) Every individual service-man serving in the Armed Forces must take the oath stated in Schedule 1 of this Act, in order to properly carry out the duties and responsibilities of a service-man.
- (b) It is the solemn duty of every service-man to continually abide by the oath he has taken.
- The Armed Forces
4. There must exist, in accordance with this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act, an Armed Force in the Republic of the

Maldives.

- The role of the  
Armed Forces
5. (a) The Armed Forces are a linked military force created by the Maldivian State, to carry out all the responsibilities, duties and obligations of the Armed Forces in accordance with this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act.
- (b) The Armed Forces are a military force.
- Divisions of the  
Armed Forces
6. (a) The military force specified in Section 5 of this Act, encompasses the Armed Forces responsible for sea, land and air defence and security matters and the support services needed for the army, the navy and the air-force.
- (b) The Minister has the power to allocate, organise and change the divisions of the Armed Forces stated in sub-section (a) of this Section.
- (c) The Minister has the discretion to alter or modify the Armed Forces stated in subsection (a) of this Section.
- The  
responsibilities  
of the Armed  
Forces
7. The responsibilities of the Armed Forces are as follows:-
- (a) To defend and protect the Constitution of the Republic of the Maldives and the State;
- (b) To defend and protect the independence and the sovereignty of the Republic of the Maldives and to protect and maintain national security.
- (c) To protect and maintain securely the territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of the Maldives.
- (d) To lead and co-ordinate with the relevant government authorities in

assisting in protecting the lives and property of persons in all natural disasters and at times of other grave dangers affecting the country.

- (e) To provide fire fighting services and to protect the lives and property of persons in all instances of fire;
- (f) To carry out search and rescue of persons stranded at sea and to protect the lives and property of citizens in all instances of danger occurring on land or sea.
- (g) To oversee the security and protection of the of sea and air ports of the Maldives.
- (h) To advice and assist the Government in formulating the policies relevant to the defence and the protection of the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of the Maldives.
- (i) To collect, collate and analyse information relating to the defence and the protection of the independence and the sovereignty of the Republic of the Maldives or any matter which may jeopardise or diminish national security and to take all the necessary action according to the relevant laws.
- (j) To work towards demonstrating the dignity and integrity, pride and honour of the State of the Maldives, and to exhibit soldierly ability and military aptitude in international, national or formal functions.
- (k) To obtain, maintain and make optimum use o, equipment and means necessary for the carrying out of duties and responsibilities of the Armed Forces.
- (l) To research optimum techniques required to maintain the standard and service levels of the Armed Forces and to organise and develop the Armed Forces in the light of such research.

- (m) To provide the requisite training and education to ensure that the Armed Forces are honest and trustworthy, able and courageous, educated and skilled, and at all times unwaveringly ready to make sacrifices for the country in carrying out their duties and responsibilities.
- (n) To carry out the work assigned to the Armed Force as provided for in the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Maldives, in accordance with the duties mandated to the ministry responsible for the defence and security of the Republic of the Maldives

Duties of the 8.  
Armed Forces

The main duties of the Armed Forces are as follows:-

- (a) To remain honest and trustworthy in defending the Constitution of the Republic of the Maldives, the State and the religion of Islam and to be prepared to sacrifice one's self in order to protect the country from enemies and insurgents.
- (b) To comply fully with and obey all the laws and regulations of the Republic of the Maldives.
- (c) To obey without hesitation, the regulations and principles of the Armed Forces and the commands and orders of superiors.
- (d) To act in accordance with the decorum and protocols necessary to maintain the dignity and reputation of the Armed Forces.
- (e) To perform all official tasks entrusted to them with diligence and sincerity.
- (f) To perform all duties to the best of their ability, by virtue of being service-men in the Armed Forces even where a specific order has not been given.

The 9.  
Commander-in-

- (a) The President is the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

Chief of the  
Armed Forces

- (b) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces shall have the authority at any time to give direct orders to the entire Armed Forces, or a group of service-men or to an individual service-man.
- (c) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces shall have the discretion to appoint a Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.
- (d) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces shall with the advice of the Minister, determine the name of the Armed Forces.
- (e) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces shall have the authority to make use of the lawful powers and discretions accorded to the Minister, the Chief Of General Staff and any other commander of the Armed Forces.

The Minister

- 10.
- (a) Unless otherwise determined by the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, the Minister shall be in command of the organisation and operation of all matters relating to the Armed Forces.
  - (b) The Minister shall determine the divisions required for the implementation of the responsibilities of the Armed Forces and the work to be performed by each such division.
  - (c) Provided that the Minister is not acting in contravention of orders given by the Commander-in-Chief, the Minister shall have the authority to command the entire Armed Forces, or a group of service-men or an individual service-man.
  - (d) Provided that the Minister is not acting in contravention of the orders given by the Commander-in-Chief, the Minister has the power to assume all the powers and discretions accorded under the law to any commander of the Armed Forces excepting only those powers and

discretions accorded by law to the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

- (e) The Minister is accountable to the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces for the exercise of the authority and discretion over the Armed Forces accorded by law to the Minister and the discharge of his responsibilities as Minister.

The Chief Of  
General Staff

- 11. (a) The Chief of General Staff shall be the commander of the Armed Forces and is the senior most person in charge of the organisation and operation of all matters relating to the defence of the Republic of the Maldives and all matters relating to the organisation and operation of the Armed Forces in the carrying out of their day to day duties and administration.
- (b) It is a responsibility of the Chief of General Staff to promulgate the necessary orders and to give the necessary commands and establish procedures and systems and to do all that is incidental to ensure that service-men carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Armed Forces, and that the competence and aptitude of the Armed Forces is enhanced and maintained and to oversee and be accountable for the same.
- (c) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces shall appoint and dismiss the Chief of General Staff.
- (d) The Chief Of General Staff shall be appointed from within the ranks of the Armed Forces.
- (e) The Chief of General Staff is accountable to the Minister for the exercise of the authority and discretion over the Armed Forces accorded by law to the Chief of General Staff and the discharge of his responsibilities as Chief of General Staff.

The Deputy

- 12. (a) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces has the discretion to

Chief of  
General Staff

appoint a Deputy Chief of General Staff from within the Armed Forces in order to assist the Chief of General Staff in the operation of matters of national security and in organising the day to day activities of the Armed Forces.

- (b) In the absence of the Chief of General Staff or where he is suspended or incapable of carrying out his responsibilities, or where his position has been vacated for any other reason, the Deputy Chief of General Staff shall have the authority to carry out the responsibilities of the Chief of General Staff and to assume all the powers accorded to the Chief of General Staff under this Act and any regulations made pursuant to this Act.

National  
Security  
Council

- 13. (a) There shall be a National Security Council to provide advice and consultation to the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces on all matters of national security.

- (b) The National Security Council shall comprise of the Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Home Affairs, the Minister of Atolls Development, the Attorney General, the Chief of General Staff and the Commissioner of Police.

- (c) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces has the discretion to appoint temporary members to the National Security Council, who shall be in addition to those stated in sub-section (b) of this Section.

The Reserve  
Forces of the  
Armed Forces

- 14. (a) The Commander-in-Chief, can in accordance with this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act, determine at his discretion to authorise the establishment and management of the Reserve Forces, which shall be in addition to the Armed Forces provided for under Section 4 of this Act.

- (b) The Sections of this Act that are applicable to the service-men of the Armed Forces shall apply to a reservist or a reservists of the Reserve Forces stated in sub-section (b) of this Section , only when a reservist

or reservists of the Reserve Forces commences Active Duty by order of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

- (c) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces may only call upon a reservist or reservists of the Reserve Forces, to report for Active Duty by a special order made in any of the following of the circumstances:-
  - (i) to defend the Republic of the Maldives in the event of war;
  - (ii) to protect the State in the event of an armed insurrection, revolution or civil unrest against the State;
  - (iii) in the event that the National Security Council advises the Commander-in-Chief that any of the events stated in sub-section (a) and (b) of this Section may occur;
  - (iv) where a State of Emergency is declared pursuant to the powers accorded to the President under the Constitution of the Republic of the Maldives;
  - (v) where the Republic of the Maldives is faced with a natural disaster.
- (d) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces may order a reservist or reservists of the Reserve Forces to report to Active Duty, where in the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, the numbers of the Armed Forces are perceived to be insufficient to deal with the occurrence of any of the circumstances specified in sub-section (c) of this Section.
- (e) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces shall within 30 days, of ordering a reservist or reservists of the Reserve Forces to assume Active Duty pursuant to sub-section (c) and (d) of this Section, inform the People's Majlis in writing of the reasons thereof.



- (f) Where a reservist or reservists of the Reserve Forces assumes Active Duty in accordance with an order made by the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces pursuant to sub-section (c) of this Section, such a reservist or reservists of the Reserve Forces shall remain on Active Duty until informed of the cessation of Active Duty by a special order issued by the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.
- (g) Reservists of the Reserve Forces, shall in addition to the institutional training, also be provided with at least 2 weeks of further training in every year. Reservists of the Reserve Forces shall in order to carry out this training, be temporarily released from their related fields of work with full pay.

Immunity of the  
Armed Forces

- 15. (a) No action may be brought against a service-man in relation to any act or omission in his official capacity, which is in compliance with a lawful order from a superior or in order to carry out the role and functions of a service-man as provided for in this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act, provided that such act or omission did not contravene the law and was without *mala fide* intent.
- (b) The immunity accorded to service-men pursuant to sub-section (a) of this Section, shall be accorded to a service-man even after discharge from the Armed Forces provided that the service-man was not dismissed pursuant to Section 30 of this Act.
- (c) A service-man who suffers loss, damage or injury to his person or property shall be solely responsible for such loss, damage or injury where such loss, damage or injury was caused due to the service-man's disobedience of a lawful order given by a superior or due to an act in contravention of the role and functions of a service-man as provided for in this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act.

Powers of the  
Armed Forces

- 16. (a) The powers accorded to the Armed Forces pursuant to this Act and other laws and regulations of relevance to the role and functions of

the Armed Forces, may be utilised by every service-man provided that the utilisation of such powers is in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Maldives.

(b) Every service-man shall with sincerity and integrity be accountable to the Chief of General Staff, with regard to the utilisation of the powers and discretions accorded to him and the discharge of his responsibilities.

Null and void orders 17. (a) Any order that wholly or partially contravenes this Act or the regulations made pursuant to this Act, shall to the extent that they are contrary to this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act, be null and void.

(b) It is an offence for any service-man to knowingly and with intent, comply with a null and void order.

Participation in political activities 18. No service-man shall be a member of, or participate in the activities of, or conduct himself in a manner such as to be seen to be associated with any political party.

The right to vote 19. The right to vote of all citizens as provided for by the Constitution is an exception to the prohibition against participation in political activities pursuant to Section 18 of this Act.

Use and possession of arms 20. (a) In order to carry out their duties and responsibilities as provided for in this Act, the Armed Forces have the authority to possess and make use of arms, in accordance with regulations made pursuant to this Act.

Assisting the police and other law enforcing bodies 21. (a) The Armed Forces may assist the police and other law enforcement agencies to maintain public peace and public order.

(b) In assisting the police and other law enforcement agencies pursuant to sub-section (a) of this Section, the Armed Forces are accorded all the lawful powers accorded to the police and other law enforcement

agencies.

- (c) The use of the powers accorded to the Armed Forces pursuant to sub-section (b) of this Section must be in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the use of such powers.

Requesting public assistance and commandeering property

- 22. (a) The Armed Forces have the right to request assistance from the general public and to requisition and make use of the property, vehicles or other items belonging to the general public where this is necessary to defend national security and public order.
- (b) Compensation must be provided, for any damage caused to the property used, pursuant to sub-section (a) of this Section.
- (c) It is an offence under this Act for any person to refuse to provide the assistance requested for by the Armed Forces in any of the circumstances specified in pursuant to sub-section (a) of this Section.

Acquiring and possession of information relating to national security

- 23. (a) A special group tasked from within the Armed Forces has the power and discretion to acquire information necessary and relevant to the protection of national security and public order.
- (b) It is an offence under this Act, for any person to provide to an unauthorised person, any information that may jeopardise or diminish national security and public order.
- (c) Information acquired in the course of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the Armed Forces shall not be conveyed except to the persons or in the circumstances stated hereunder:-
  - (i) to the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, the Minister, the National Security Council and the Chief of General Staff, in order for the duties and responsibilities of the Armed Forces to be carried out;

(ii) to the senior most person in charge of law enforcement agencies;

(iii) to a court of law seized with an action being brought due to a decision of the Armed Forces or the Ministry;

(iv) where the information has been made public by official sources.

Service and training

24. (a) The Minister shall oversee the service, assignment of posts, promotions and de-motions, determination of place of work or employment and changes to the place of work or service of service-men in accordance with the regulations made pursuant to this Act.
- (b) The Minister must organise and administer the training of the Armed Forces as provided for in the regulations made pursuant to this Act.
- (c) The Minister where he deems fit, may delegate to the Chief of General Staff the organisation and administration of all matters relating to the employment and training of the Armed Forces.

Designation of posts and ranks within the Armed Forces

25. The Minister shall establish and designate posts and ranks within the Armed Forces in accordance with the regulations made pursuant to this Act.

Award of promotions, and medals and decorations within the Armed Forces

26. (a) The Minister will determine the award of promotions, and medals and decorations to the Armed Forces in accordance with the regulations made pursuant to this Act.
- (b) The Minister must establish an advisory board to advise the Minister with regard to the award of promotions, and medals and decorations to the service-men of the Armed Forces and to assist organise and implement the same as provided for in sub-section (a) of this Section.

Use of the uniform of the Armed Forces and medals and decorations without authorisation

27. A person who acts in the manner stated in sub-section (a), (b) and (c) of this Section, shall be penalized under this Act, unless he acted with permission from a person authorised to give such permission under the regulations made pursuant to this Act:-

- (a) to produce, sell or use an official uniform or medal or decoration authorised for use by the Armed Forces;
- (b) to produce or use an official uniform or medal or decoration authorised for use by the Armed Forces or a duplicate of the same with the intention of deceiving a person or persons;
- (c) to give an official uniform or a medal or a decoration authorised for use by the Armed Forces to a person who is not authorised to make use of the same.

Resignation

28. (a) Any service-man, except for the Chief of General Staff and the Deputy Chief of General Staff, may resign from his post by submitting a resignation in writing, to the Minister specifying the reason for the resignation. Such person must carry out his duties until such time as the Minister informs him that his resignation has been accepted.

(b) The Chief of General Staff and the Deputy Chief of General Staff, may resign from their post by submitting a resignation in writing to the President of the Republic of the Maldives, specifying the reason for the resignation. Such person must carry out his duties until such time as the President informs him that his resignation has been accepted.

Honourable discharge

29. (a) The Minister has the authority, pursuant to regulations made under this Act, to declare a service-man honourably discharged, except those who are dismissed from the Armed Forces pursuant to the circumstances specified in Section 30.

- (b) The Minister has the discretion, to grant special privileges and immunities, in accordance with this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act, to service-men honourably discharged as provided for in sub-section (a) of this Section.
- (c) A service-man dismissed from the Armed Forces pursuant to the circumstances specified in Section 30 of this Act, shall not be eligible for any of the privileges or immunities provided for under this Act.

Termination of  
service

30. The Minister has the discretion to dismiss a service-man for being absent without leave or for misconduct or for commission of an offence or for contravening this Act or the regulations made pursuant to this Act.

Absent without  
leave

31. (a) A service-man who is absent without leave from work or attempts to do so will be penalised as provided for in this Act or the regulations made pursuant to this Act.

(b) A service-man is deemed absent without leave, as provided for in sub-section (a) of this Section, where he fails to report for work for 14 (fourteen) days without authorisation, or where he fails to report to work or objects to report to work where an order is given in accordance with this Act by a superior in an emergency.

(c) Any person who motivates, assists, solicits or incites a service-man to be absent without leave from work as stated in sub-section (a) of this Section, will be penalised under this Act.

Coup within the  
Armed Forces

32. A service-man who commits or attempts to commit an act stated in sub-section (a) and (b) of this Section, or has knowledge of a person carrying out such acts or attempts to commit such an act and fails to inform a superior of the same or delays in conveying such information, shall have committed an offence under this Act.

(a) Coup or creating strife and discord within the Armed Forces or

attempting to do the same.

- (b) Make a service-man rebel or create strife and discord, or inciting a service-man to do the same.

Privileges  
accorded to the  
Armed Forces

33. The Minister shall as provided for in the regulations made pursuant to this Act, provide for all the privileges to be accorded to service-men.

Compensation  
for serious  
injuries or  
disability  
sustained in the  
course of  
service

34. Where a service-man is injured or suffers a disability during the course of his service, just compensation will be provided for according to the regulations made pursuant to this Act.

Welfare fund

35. (a) The Minister has the authority to create a welfare fund in order to improve the welfare of the Armed Forces, and to authorise spending from such fund for the welfare purposes of the Armed Forces.

(b) The Minister where he deems fit, may at his discretion, assign to the Chief of General Staff the creation and the operation of the welfare fund, mentioned in sub-section (a) of this Section.

(c) In order to improve and further develop the welfare fund, it may engage in trading activities in accordance with law and regulations.

(d) The Minister has the discretion to authorise, as provided for in the relevant laws, the formation of companies, associations and organisations from within the Armed Forces, to carry out the trading activities stated in sub-section (c) of this Section,

(e) The Minister shall have the discretion to establish military hospitals or military clinics for the use of the Armed Forces and their families, from the welfare fund provided for in sub-section (a) of this Section.

- Purchase of materials, arms and equipment and the setting up of an infrastructure in order for the Armed Forces to carry out their role
36. The Armed Forces have the authority to purchase and acquire all materials, means and arms and to set up the infrastructure necessary for the Armed Forces to carry out their role, provided that this is done in accordance with the laws and principles that govern state assets and finances.
- Registration of all military vehicles and vessels
37. (a) All military vehicles and vessels (sea, land or air) are exempt from the registration process as provided for in the laws that govern ordinary transport.
- (b) The vehicles and vessels mentioned in sub-section (a) of this Section must in accordance with the regulations made pursuant to this Act, be registered with the ministry mandated with the responsibility of the defence of the Maldives.
- Discretion of captains of military vessels
38. (a) A service-man, when acting in the capacity of a captain of a vessel of the Coast Guard of the Armed Forces, has the authority to detain and arrest any vessel and all persons on such vessel, where the captain reasonably believes that they were carrying out or attempting to carryout any one of the following activities stated below:-
- (i) engaging in any activity at sea which may endanger or diminish the independence, sovereignty or national security of the Republic of the Maldives;
- (ii) entering or fishing in the territorial waters or the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of the Maldives in contravention of the laws of the Republic of the Maldives;
- (iii) contravening the maritime laws and regulations and the fisheries laws and regulations of the Republic of the Maldives;



- (iv) attempting to smuggle in or out of the Republic of the Maldives any item that is prohibited from being brought in or taken out of the country;
  - (v) attempting to illegally smuggle in or out of the Republic of the Maldives, any item that may lawfully be brought in or taken out of the country as provided for in the applicable laws;
  - (vi) contravening the laws and regulations relating to customs, financial and monetary matters, immigration and health within the contiguous zone of the Republic of Maldives;
  - (vii) attempting to destroy, damage or spoil the shores and coast lines and contiguous zone of the Republic of Maldives or attempting to destroy, damage or spoil any thing which may have an economic or social value or diminish the value and benefit that may be obtained from such thing;
  - (viii) obstructing and preventing the freedom of movement within the territorial waters of the Republic of the Maldives.
- (b) In carrying out his lawful duty, pursuant to sub-section (a) of this Section, the captain of a vessel of the Coast Guard of the Armed Forces, has the authority, in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations, to stop, search and seize any illegal property, goods, documents, arms and any other such items found on the vessel or persons on board such vessel and to detain such persons, vessels and items until they can be handed over to the police for investigation.
- (c) Any persons detained and any items confiscated by the Armed Forces, pursuant to sub-section (a) and (b) of this Section, must be handed over to police for investigation with all possible dispatch.

Damage, injury  
or difficulty to  
one service-man

39. (a) A service-man has the discretion to lodge a complaint with the Minister in order to obtain a resolution where he has suffered

from another

damage, injury or difficulty due to another service-man.

- (b) Where a complaint has been lodged with the Minister as stated in sub-section (1) of this Section, the complaint must be submitted and investigated and the necessary action taken in accordance with this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act, by a special committee which will be in charge of handling the complaint.

Military police

40.

The Minister must establish military police from within the Armed Forces, who shall be responsible for the administration of all investigations into offences committed by service-men and within the Armed Forces and to take the necessary administrative action in all such matters.

Penalties for administrative offences committed by the Armed Forces

41.

- (a) A service-man, who contravenes this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act, will be subject to an administrative penalty that is commensurate to the offence as provided for in the “Regulation relating to administrative penalties for offences committed by service-men” made pursuant to this Act.
- (b) The imposition of an administrative penalty as provided for in sub-section (a) of this Section does not prevent or exclude the pressing of criminal charges.
- (c) The penalties proscribed in the regulation stated in sub-section (a) of this Section, must be within the following limits:-
- (i) a fine of no less than Mrf 10 (ten) and not exceeding Mrf25,000 (twenty five thousand);
  - (ii) arrest for a period of not less than 1 (one) day and not more than 120 (one hundred and twenty) days, in a depot of the Armed Forces;
  - (iii) arrest for a period of not less than 1 (one) day and not more than 120 (one hundred and twenty) days, in a depot of the Armed

Forces, such that the person has no dealings generally with other persons;

(iv) arrest for a period of not less than 5 (five) days and not more than 90 (ninety) days, with the imposition of hard labour, in a depot of the Armed Forces on an island other than his usual island of domicile;

(v) de-motion to a lower rank;

(vi) termination of service;

(vii) termination of service and instituting proceedings against such person.

Penalties for offences where a specific penalty has not been proscribed

42. The penalty for any offence for which a specific penalty has not been proscribed in this Act is, the imposition of a fine not exceeding Mrf 25,000 (twenty five thousand) or imprisonment in jail for a period not exceeding 1 (one) year, or the imposition of a fine not exceeding Mrf 25,000 (twenty five thousand) and imprisonment in jail for a period not exceeding 1 (one) year,.

Regulations

43. (a) The Minister shall formulate and implement all regulations required to be made pursuant to this Act.

(b) The Minister where he deems fit, has the authority to delegate to the Chief of General Staff, the formulation and implementation of certain regulations required to be made pursuant to this Act.

(c) The following regulations shall be made, within, 6 (six) months from the date on which this Act is passed into law, assented to and published in the gazette:-

(i) general regulation relating to the Armed Forces;

- (ii) code of conduct and code of ethics;
- (iii) regulation relating to the use of arms;
- (iv) regulation relating to the rules of engagement;
- (v) regulation relating to service;
- (vi) regulation relating to uniforms;
- (vii) regulation relating to training;
- (viii) regulation relating to the establishment, maintenance and operation of the Reserve Forces;
- (ix) regulation relating to the registration of military vehicles and vessels;
- (x) regulation relating to administrative penalties for offences committed by service-men;
- (xi) regulation relating to honourable discharge;
- (xii) regulation relating to dismissal from the Armed Forces;
- (xiii) regulation relating to promotions and award of decorations and medals;
- (xiv) regulation relating to leave and being absent from work;
- (xv) regulation relating to the possession and use of Armed Forces identity cards;
- (xvi) regulation relating to the investigation and necessary action with regard to complaints made against service-men;

(xvii) regulation relating to the auditing of the Armed Forces.

Date of coming into effect of this Act 44.

This Act shall come into force 6 (six) months from the date on which this Act is passed into law, assented to and published in the gazette.

Interpretation 45.

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the following words shall mean:-

- (a) “Minister” shall mean the Minister in charge of the ministry mandated with the defence and the national security of the Republic of the Maldives or the senior most person in charge of the administration of such ministry.
  - (b) “Active Duty” shall mean being in employment only within the Armed Forces in order to discharge the duties and responsibilities of the Armed Forces as provided for in this Act.
  - (c) “Arms” shall mean gunpowder or weapons consisting such dangerous chemicals, and any weapon capable of causing serious injury or damage to persons or property.
  - (d) “Commander” refers to the senior most officers in charge of the Armed Forces.
  - (e) “Harbour” refers to international and regional harbours as determined by the Government.
-

## **Schedule 1**

### **Oath**

I hereby, swear this oath in the name of Almighty Allah, to be steadfast and in all sincerity and integrity to defend the Constitution of the Republic of Maldives, the religion of Islam and the Republic of Maldives and to be ready at all times to sacrifice my self if need be in order to defend the State from enemies and insurgents.

---

This bill was submitted by the Government of the Republic of the Maldives, as the Armed Forces carry out a very important responsibility and there was perceived a need for an Act to specify and state the policies pursuant to which the Armed Forces of the Republic of Maldives was established, the duties and responsibilities of the Armed Forces, and the manner in which such duties and responsibilities are to be discharged by the Armed Forces, and to specify the privileges and immunities of the Armed Forces, as well as providing for the organisation and progression of these matters further.

14<sup>th</sup> February 2006