

LAWS OF BRUNEI

REVISED EDITION 1984

THE MOST ESTEEMED FAMILY ORDER

S.29/54
S.120/63

By the Grace of God, We, Omar Ali Saifuddin Wasa'dul Khairi Waddin, ibni Almarhum Sultan Sir Mohamed' Jemal-ul Alam, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of the State and Territory of Brunei and all its Dependencies, Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George,

WHEREAS We are desirous of making provision for the giving from time to time of due and proper honour or reward to such dearly-beloved the trusty Members of Our Family, to such Foreign Princes and to such other persons as merit honour or reward from Our Government.

NOW, THEREFORE, We according to Our Will and Pleasure, in exercise of Our Royal Rights and Prerogatives as Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of this Our State and Territory of Brunei and all its Dependencies, and with the Knowledge and Concurrence of Our Chiefs and Councillors and Advisers by these presents create and constitute an Order of Exalted and Honourable Rank, to be called and styled "The Most Esteemed Family Order" (Darjah Karabat Yang Amat Dihormati) and to have as its peculiar Seal a Seal in the Form and Pattern illustrated and described in the Appendix hereto.

OMAR ALI SAIFUDDIN WASA'DUL
KHAIRI WADDIN

SEAL OF
THE ORDER

By the Grace of God, We, Omar Ali Saifuddin Wasa'dul Khairi Waddin, ibni Almarhum Sultan Sir Mohamed Jemal-ul Alam, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of the State and Territory of Brunei and all its Dependencies, Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, to all whom these presents shall come, GREETING —

WHEREAS on the 1st day of March, 1954, exercising Our Royal Rights and Prerogatives as Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of this Our State and Territory of Brunei and all its Dependencies, and with the Knowledge and Concurrence of Our Chiefs and Councillors and Advisers, We were pleased to create and constitute an Order of Exalted and

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Honourable Rank, to be called and styled "The Most Esteemed Family Order" (Darjah Karabat Yang Amat Dihormati).

And WHEREAS Our Royal Commands respecting the Creation and Establishment by Us of the said Most Esteemed Order were Notified and Made Known to Our Subjects according to the Custom of Our Country, to wit, by a Notification published in the Government *Gazette* on the day aforesaid:

And WHEREAS it is Our Will and Pleasure that Members shall have and enjoy Statutes and Ordinances for their Guidance in availing themselves of the said Most Esteemed Order, to the Glory of God and for the welfare of Our Country:

NOW, THEREFORE, by these Presents, sealed with the Seal of the Most Esteemed Order, We do Make, Ordain and Establish and have hereby Made, Ordained and Established the following Statutes and Ordinances, declaring that solely to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, Sultans of the State and Territory of Brunei and all its Dependencies, Sovereigns and Chiefs of the said Most Esteemed Order, doth and shall belong all Power of Abrogating, Explaining, Amending or Adding to the said Statutes or any particular therein.

It is Our Royal Pleasure to Ordain, Direct and Appoint as follows:

1. This Order shall be styled and Designated the Most Esteemed Family Order, and the Motto of the said Order shall be —

الداعم المحسنين بالهدى

(Berdiri Dengan Kasentosa'an Allah.)

2. The said Most Esteemed Order shall consist of the Sovereign and 2 several Classes of Members.

3. We, Our Heirs and Successors, Sultans of the State and Territory of Brunei and all its Dependencies are and for ever shall be Sovereigns and Chiefs of the said Most Esteemed Order.

4. The 2 Classes of Members of the said Most Esteemed Order shall be styled and Designated respectively —

First Class Order
Second Class Order

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5. The Ordinary Members of the First Class for the time being shall not exceed 6 in number.

6. The Ordinary Members of the Second Class for the time being shall not exceed 10 in number.

7. The Honorary Members of the said Most Esteemed Order shall consist of Foreign Rulers and Princes whom We may consider fit and proper to invite and who may do Us and the Order the honour to accept and join the Order, and of Foreign Persons upon whom We may think fit to confer the Order, and every such Honorary Member shall be additional and not included within the numbers of Ordinary Members prescribed for the several Classes above.

8. The Persons to be admitted as Ordinary Members of this Most Esteemed Order shall be those of Our Family of Royal Blood whom We may consider fit and proper and those who may hold or shall hereafter hold High Offices, or may have rendered or shall hereafter have rendered Important Services to Us, or those of Our Family of Royal Blood whose Talents, Virtues, Loyalty or Services have merited or may hereafter merit the reward of Our Affection. Nevertheless We have the Power and Right to appoint any person other than those of Royal Blood, to wit, such of Our Officers as We may consider fit and proper to be appointed, and if at any time We appoint such a person to be a Member of this Esteemed Order, he shall realise and appreciate Our act to be a mark of the greatest Favour and Affection.

9. Gentlemen, upon whom have been conferred the honour of being admitted to the First Class of this Order or Second Class of this Order may on all occasions have, use and enjoy the appellation and style of "Dato' Seri Utama" or "Dato' Utama", as the case may be, as follows:

If the recipient of the honour is a Pengiran or Pehin, he shall use the appellation and style after his title, thus —

"Pengiran Dato Seri Utama (or Dato' Utama) Mohamed",
or

"Pehin Orang Kaya Kemala Dewa Dato' Seri Utama (or
Dato' Utama) Mohamed";

if the recipient of the honour is other than a Pengiran or Pehin, he shall use the appellation and style before his name, thus —

"Dato' Seri Utama (or Dato' Utama) Mohamed".

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Ladies who have been admitted to the First Class or Second Class of this Order may on all occasions have, use and enjoy the appellation and style "Datin Seri Utama" or "Datin Utama", as the case may be, in the same manner above-mentioned. Ladies whose husbands have been admitted to the First Class or Second Class of this Order may on all occasions have use and enjoy the appellation and style "Datin" before their names.

10. The Habit, Robes, Decorations and Insignia of the Sovereign and of both Classes of Members of the said Most Esteemed Order and the Badges or Insignia of the Officers of the said Order shall be respectively of the pattern illustrated and described in the Appendix to these Statutes.

11. In the event of any Member of the said Most Esteemed Order resigning his Rank as a Member of this Order, or of any Officer resigning his Office, he shall forthwith return his Decoration and Insignia: and on the promotion of a Member of the said Order to a Higher Class therein, he shall likewise immediately return the Insignia previously worn by him to the Secretary of the said Most Esteemed Order.

12. On the decease of any Ordinary Member of the said Most Esteemed Order, his Insignia shall be returned to the Secretary of the Most Esteemed Order by his heirs or representatives, unless they shall receive a written intimation from the Chancellor of the said Most Esteemed Order, that it is the Gracious Pleasure of the Sovereign to permit their retention by the heir or heirs of the deceased Member as a Mark of Royal Affection and Favour.

13. The foregoing Rule concerning the return of the Insignia of a deceased Member shall not apply in the case of an Honorary Member, whose heirs will only be required to send at an early date a written intimation of the occurrence of the death to the Secretary of the said Most Esteemed Order.

14. There shall be 4 Officers appointed by Us or Our Heirs and Successors to the said Most Esteemed Order, that is to say: a Chancellor (Menteri), a Prelate (Imam), Secretary and Registrar (Juru-Tulis) and a Gentleman Usher (Bentara), which Officers shall rank among each other in the above Order.

15. The Sovereign shall have the Power and Right to Degrade and expel from the said Most Esteemed Order, any Member thereof who has been convicted of Treason, Felony or any Grave Offence considered Derogatory in a man of Honour, and it shall at all times be competent

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for the Sovereign to restore to and Reinststate in the Order any person so expelled if circumstances render it just and expedient so to do.

16. The Chancery of the said Most Esteemed Order shall be in the Lapau, Brunei.

17. Lastly, We reserve to Ourselves, Our Heirs and Successors the Powers of Altering or Abrogating or Adding to or Explaining any of the aforesaid Statutes or any article thereof, if and whenever We may deem it necessary or expedient so to do, and such Alterations, Additions or Explanations shall be accepted as part and parcel of the Statutes of the said Most Esteemed Order.

Given at Our Palace, Brunei under the Seal of the said Most Esteemed Order this 1st day of March, 1954.